

## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Roysse Court on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Helen Pighills - Chairman  
Councillor Marilyn Badcock - Vice Chairman  
Councillor Alice Badcock  
Councillor Jan Morter  
Councillor Andrew Todd

**In Attendance:** Mr Stephen Rich - Head of Services  
Mr Timothy Badcock - Cemetery and Works Supervisor

### A11. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Angela Lawrence (Mayor), Councillor Sandy Lovatt (Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee) Councillor Samantha Bowring and Councillor Jeanette Halliday.

### A12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting.

### A13 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minute A16 - Land Holdings - The meeting was informed that maps detailing some of the land holdings in the town were now available for Members to view. The Committee asked that these are made available to Members who wished to see them. The Head of Services said that this was possible if Members made an appointment with him to view them.

Minute A58 - Flood Forum - The meeting was informed that the National Flood Forum had been invited to attend the Fun in the Park event in June 2015.

Minute A10 - Roysse Court Garden - The Committee were informed that the Guildhall Committee had given its approval for the removal of the fountain in Roysse Court garden. The meeting was also informed that an application to fell the diseased and failing trees in the garden had been made to the District Council as they were in a conservation area.

Minute A21 - Adoption of Land - The meeting were informed of an e-mail from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority regarding the adoption of the footpath at

Hendred Way through to Chilton Close had been received and agreed with the response given to them by the Head of Services.

A14. **Abingdon In Bloom**

The Committee received and approved the minutes of the Abingdon In Bloom Sub Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and **resolved** to *accept the recommendations therein.*

A15. **Summer Events Working Group**

The Committee received and approved the notes/minutes of the Summer Events Working Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 and **resolved** to *approve any recommendations therein.*

The Chairman of the Summer Events Working Group informed the Committee that sponsorship for the Fun in the Park event had been received from Yates Letting Agency and that the three Abingdon County Councillors had given £1,500 each towards the event, from their local budgets. The staging, toilets and firework display had been booked with applications for stalls going well. Tickets for the Music in the Park event will go on sale on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. They would also be on sale on the Market Place on four dates.

A16. **Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer in relation the above for the financial period April 2014 to January 2015 as circulated with the agenda. The Committee **resolved** to *accept the report.*

A17. **Cemetery and Works Supervisors Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Cemetery and Works Supervisor as circulated with the agenda.

The Committee requested that, in future years, the Christmas Tree Recycling event is included more prominently on the Town Council's web pages and other publications.

The Committee requested that a list of salt bins be included on the Town Council web site for information.

The Guildhall Committee would be requested to make some temporary improvements to the car parking situation at the rear of the Guildhall buildings.

A18. **Fishing**

Members were informed by the Head of Services that, since the costs for fishing matches on the Abingdon-on-Thames fisheries had been set at a uniform £400, no matches had

been officially booked with the Town Council. Members decided that the price increase would stand and the new Council (elections in May 2015) should review the charges at the end of a twelve (12) month period (September).

A19. **Request for Bins**

A request for bins had been received from the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents Association for a Dog Bin and a Litter Bin to be placed on the open area surrounded by Longfellow Drive and Wordsworth Avenue. The Committee considered this request and decided not to supply bins at this point in time as no complaints about rubbish have been made to the Town Council. The Works Team would keep an eye on the situation and report back to a future meeting.

A20. **Trees in Spring Garden Cemetery**

Members received the report of the Head of Services concerning the replacement tree programme for the Spring Garden Cemetery. It was **resolved** *that the report be accepted and that the costs of the programme be taken from the Cemetery Improvement budget.*

The Committee also **resolved** *to allow the new trees to be sponsored in memory of loved ones in the cemetery for which a charge of £400 will be made. This would include an engraved marble plaque from the Columbaria range of memorial plaques. Also resolved that the income from the sponsorship of the trees be set aside for purchasing trees for the new cemetery in the coming years.*

A21. **Publicity**

Members requested that the following items be given publicity:

- Trees in Spring Garden Cemetery
- Fun in Park – the availability of the stage in the afternoon
- Salt Bins
- Fishing

A22. **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

It was moved by the Chairman and **resolved**:

*That in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

A23. **New Cemetery**

The Committee received and approved the confidential notes of the New Cemetery Working party which met on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with the following amendments:

- Councillor Lesley Legge entered the meeting at 6.40pm.
- Councillor Marilyn Badcock left the meeting at 6.50pm and returned at 7.10pm. Councillor Jeanette Halliday as Vice Chairman conducted the meeting during her absence.

A24. **Play Area Equipment**

The Committee resolved to accept the tender from “Safe and Sound” for the replacement of two roundabouts for Boxhill and Caldecott play areas and “rockers” for Hill View and Boxhill play areas. This would be funded from the play area improvements and renewal budget.

Meeting rose at 8.55pm