

## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.00pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Helen Pighills	- Chairman
Councillor Marilyn Badcock	- Vice-Chairman
Councillor Alice Badcock	
Councillor Samantha Bowring	
Councillor Jeanette Halliday	
Councillor Jan Morter	

**In Attendance:**

Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Mr. Nigel Warner	- Town Clerk
Mr. Stephen Rich	- Head of Services (Clerk to the meeting)

### A17 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Angela Lawrence (Mayor) Councillor Sandy Lovatt (Chairman of Finance and General Purposes), and Councillor Andrew Todd.

### A18 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest raised at the meeting.

### A19 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved:** *that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.*

### A20 **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

#### Minute A16 – Land Holdings

Members asked that they be updated with regard to the work on updating the Council's records detailing its land holdings. Members were informed that maps were being printed giving details of registered and non-registered land and when these were available it was hoped that a meeting would be held to update Members further.

### Minute A58 – Flood Forum

The meeting noted the attachments to the agenda and agreed that the flood forums to go ahead early in the New Year.

### Minute A8 - Cemetery Works Supervisor's Report

The Committee discussed the replacement of trees in the New Cemetery and asked officers to come back to the next meeting with a proposal for what kind of trees should replace those diseased or dying within the Spring Garden Cemetery.

### Minute A10 – Roysse Court Garden

After hearing that the fountain in Roysse Court garden was damaged and that plants became water logged that were planted in it the Committee asked that a **recommendation** be made to the Guildhall Committee for the removal of the fountain in Roysse Court Garden. This would allow the Committee to carry on with plans to carry out a temporary refurbishment of the area until plans for the Guildhall were approved and work undertaken.

### Minute A16 - Adoption of Land

The Committee were informed by the Head of Services of the meeting he had with representatives of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority regarding the adoption of the footpath between Hendred Way and Chilton Close. The offer made by the Town Council had to be considered by the UKAEA and they would respond sometime in the new financial year (2015/2016).

### A21 Abingdon in Bloom 2014

The meeting was informed that there would be a meeting of the Abingdon in Bloom Sub Committee in January 2015 to discuss the floral displays for that year. Members were asked to let their officers know of any particular colours or plants they would like to see in the 2015 summer display or any notable anniversary that was to be held that year.

### A22 Summer Events Working Group

The Committee received and approved the notes from the meetings of the Summer Events Working Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The Chairman of the Working Group gave a verbal report and it was **resolved** *that only food traders, trading as a business (with all the necessary insurances and certificates), would be permitted to trade at the Fun and Music in the Park events. Also that traders, running as a business, of other items (i.e. jewellery) would not be permitted to trade.*

*Charity stalls would be placed in the Abbey Close car park for this coming year's event to allow for more space for activities and sports in the Abbey Grounds.*

## A23 Finance Report

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer in relation to the above. It was **resolved** that the report be approved.

The Treasurer's Report had been issued to all Members for consideration. The Town Clerk briefed Members on a proposed change to the apportionment of the cost of the Works Team the Amenities and Recreation Committee's costs had increased in this respect. In previous years £19,622 of Works Team costs were charged centrally because it was felt that the costs of maintaining the depot and vehicles etc. should be borne centrally. This had now been transferred back to the service cost centres with the Amenities and Recreation budget therefore bearing an additional £17,692 in overheads. Adding this and the cost of an apprentice accounted for £26K of the £30K rise in the budget estimates. The meeting was informed that in this case the Finance and General Purposed budget would reduce by the same amount.

It was proposed by Councillor Alice Badcock and seconded by Councillor Marilyn Badcock that it be **recommended** that the Amenities and Recreation Budget should not be penalised by proposed changes to apportionment of works team costs and that the two budgets be amended accordingly. As this was the "status quo" position this was reflected in the draft estimates presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The committee then went through the report and made the following **recommendations** to the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

- 201 – Open Spaces: Code 4060 amend title to read "Adverse Weather" and increase budget to £2,500;
- 202 - Abingdon in Bloom: Reduce Budget to read £17,000. Ask the Abingdon in Bloom Sub Committee to consider sponsorship.
- 203 Allotments: Rental Income increase to read £1,500. To consider increase in rentals in line with inflation.
- 211 - Cemeteries / Closed Churchyard: Code 4156 Subject to the apportionment adjustments above reduce from £30,000 to £27,000. Awaiting report on cemetery buildings which F&GP should budget for.  
Code 1004 - Rental Income: Review rental on Chapel.
- 215 - Town Events: 4035 reduce to £500 return the cost of providing security for the Christmas Extravaganza to the Chamber of Commerce. Code 4036 reduce to £16,600. Codes 1020 and 1036 increase to £16,560.
- 299 - Amenities Capital / Rev Proj: Code 4163 amend title top read "Play Areas". Code 4845 reduce to £5,000. Code 4866 increase to read £100,000.
- 304 - Christmas Lights: Code 4167 retain as suggested in draft budget at £8,000 and use any unspent sums to build up reserve for future replacements of lights.

A24 **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

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

The Committee passed on its best wishes for a member of the Works Team who was off on long term sick leave.

The Vice Chairman had been in touch with officers of the Licensing department at the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding Taxis drivers moving flower tubs and displays to allow their vehicles to mount the pavements. It was requested that officers provide visual evidence and dates to the District Council so they could consider the necessary action to take.

A25 **New Cemetery**

Members were informed that the Working Group on the New Cemetery would meet on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.

A26 **Fishing**

Members received verbal reports from the Head of Services and The Cemetery and Works Supervisor in his role as Head Water Keeper for the Abingdon Fisheries and heard that regular patrols of the Fisheries had taken place with some pleasing results. However there were concerns about night fishing and officers were going to talk to the police regarding this matter.

A27 **Allotments**

The meeting was informed that the Drayton Road Allotment Association had asked for assistance in the provision of a new gate which would fall within the £2,000 allotted to each site. The West End Allotment had also asked for reimbursement of costs for a new gate and this would be approved under delegated powers.

The Committee was informed by the Head of Services that the Wildmoor Allotment Association had reported a leak along the water pipe supplying the site. Whilst it was considered that the Town Council would assist with the repair of the pipe if required the cost of the lost water would have to be borne by the Association.

A28 **Bus Shelters**

Members were informed that the Oxfordshire County Council would be installing new bus shelters in the Wootton Road in the New Year after which the responsibility for their maintenance would revert to the Town Council.

A29 **Publicity**

Members requested that the following items be given publicity:

- The planting of the beech hedge in the Spring Garden cemetery.

A30 **Items for Next Meeting**

Members were asked if there were any items they wanted on the agenda for the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee. It was suggested that a report on the Town's entry signs be made to the next meeting of the Committee.

A31 **Dates of meetings for 2013/2014**

The date of the next Amenities and Recreation Committee is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

A32 **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.*

A33 **Play Areas**

Members were informed of quotes for replacement play equipment and were informed that other quotes were still to come. It was **resolved** *that replacement items be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Amenities and Recreation committee.*

The meeting rose at 10.15 pm

Signed ..... Date .....