

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012.

Present:	Councillor Marilyn Badcock	- Chairman
	Councillor Andrew Todd	- Vice Chairman
	Councillor Alice Badcock	
	Councillor Samantha Bowring	
	Councillor Jason Fiddaman	
	Councillor Angela Lawrence	
	Councillor Monica Lovatt	- Mayor
	Councillor Lesley Legge	
In Attendance:	Mr. Stephen Rich	- Head of Service Delivery (Clerk to meeting)
	Mr Tim Badcock	- Cemetery and Works Supervisor
	Mr Nigel Warner	- Town Clerk – for items A8 & A9 only

A1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sandy Lovatt.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Jason Fiddaman and Angela Lawrence declared a personal interest in any matters concerning the Vale of White Horse District Council as they were also Members of that Council. Councillor Marilyn Badcock also declared an interest in all matters concerning the Oxfordshire County Council as she was also a Member of that Council. Councillor Jason Fiddaman also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item A16 regarding Drayton Road Allotments as a family member had an allotment there and did not take part in the discussion of this item.

A3 **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Alice Badcock and seconded by Councillor Andrew Todd and **resolved** that Councillor Marilyn Badcock be elected Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee for the civic year 2012 / 2013.

A4 **Election of Vice Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Alice Badcock and seconded by Councillor Jason Fiddaman that Councillor Andrew Todd be elected Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee for the civic year 2012 / 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Lesley Legge and seconded by Councillor Angela Lawrence that Councillor Samantha Bowring be elected Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee for the civic year 2012 / 2013

Resolved that Andrew Todd be elected as Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee for the civic year 2012 / 2013

A5. **Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2012 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Councillor Samantha Bowring entered the meeting at this point, it being 07.04pm

A6. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

A7. **HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Working Group Minutes**

Members **Resolved** to receive the minutes of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Working Group for 11th April and 30th April and to accept the recommendations therein.

A Member expressed concern that guests from Abingdon, Virginia had been invited to the town by the Twinning Society during the weekend of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations but that no civic welcome had been planned. The meeting was reminded that a decision had been taken not to have a "civic twinning" element to the weekend. Councillor Alice Badcock stated that some of her guests may also be Mayors but they were visiting the town in a personal capacity.

The Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Working Group informed the meeting that some 1,500 people were due to attend the street party on applications received to-date. Also 70 tickets had been sold for the Jubilee Ball, 1,300 tickets had been sold for the Proms in the Park and 600 for the concert from Buckingham Palace.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Town Council would have a table at the Street Party and food will be supplied, paid for by Councillors and the Mayor.

A Member of the Committee expressed her concerns about the number of people expected to attend the Bun Throwing celebrations. The Head of Service Delivery informed the meeting that discussions had taken place with the Council's contracted security staff and, if necessary, barriers could be installed to prevent further access by members of the public to the town centre once optimum numbers had been reached or perceived to have been reached.

A8 **Financial Report**

Members received the report of the Town Clerk, which included proposals for earmarked reserve movements. It was **Resolved** *that the report be accepted* and recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee that transfers take place in relation to the Committee's earmarked reserves as detailed in the report.

A9 **Council Forward Plan 2012 / 2013**

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk, and was informed that the committee would have the opportunity to consider the Plan further at its next meeting (August 29th 2012). The Committee was informed that a periodic independent service review of the Allotments and Cemeteries would be undertaken during the summer months.

The Committee **Resolved** *to note the report of the Town Clerk and to place the item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation meeting for further discussion.*

A10. **Abingdon In Bloom 2012**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Head of Service Delivery informing them that a decision had to be taken to reduce the number of hanging baskets this year due to the water restrictions currently in place across the south east of England. The Council was looking into taking water directly from the River Thames or Ock as riparian owners; however this would not be sufficient for the town's normal amount of floral displays. On the Abingdon Bridge and along Ock Street the floral displays would be replaced by Flags to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and will remain in place for the Olympics and Para Olympics.

Councillor Lawrence said that the Council may wish to think about long term planning regarding water usage and introduce a system of installing water butts on its buildings.

It was **Resolved** *to accept the report of the Head of Service Delivery.*

A11. **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

The Committee **Resolved** *to receive the verbal report from the Cemetery and Works Supervisor.*

The Chairman asked if there were safety reports issued for the play areas and if so could these be circulated to Committee Members. The Head of Service Delivers informed the meeting that there were two inspections carried out annually, one by ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and one by the Council's insurers Zurich Municipal and the reports resulting from these inspections would be made available to Members through the Committee.

The Committee asked if there had been any action taken regarding the hedge surrounding the Garden of Remembrance in Spring Gardens cemetery. The Cemetery and Works Supervisor said that the hedge was badly infested with mites and spraying would probably not solve the problem as the hedge is too dense. The hedge could be left to grow with no cutting taking place to see if this would improve matters, but he did not think this would be the answer and complaints would be received by visitors to the cemetery. It was Resolved

that this item be placed on the next agenda with a view to determining what should be done with the hedge and agreeing that a budget allocation for 2013 / 2014 should be recommended through the Finance and General Purposes Committee for its replacement. The Cemetery and Works Supervisor was asked to get estimates for its replacement.

A12. **Garden of Remembrance - Sanctum 2000**

This item was brought forward from the last meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee for recommendations to be made in relation to fees of using the Sanctum 2000 system of interring cremated remains.

The Chairman proposed to the meeting that the fees for using the Sanctum 2000 vaults should be as follows:

- 10 years rental - £1,000
- 20 Years rental £1,500

After much discussion the Committee requested officers to supply further information on the costings of the new Sanctum 2000 vaults and the problems that pre-purchasing were causing in the cemetery and report back to the next meeting.

The Committee also received a verbal report on the problems that the pre-purchasing of graves was having on the longevity of Spring Gardens cemetery and the amount of extra time it took to inter bodies in pre-purchased graves.

A13. **MG Garden**

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Committee and the Head of Service Delivery regarding the MG Garden and **Resolved** *that a pathway round the garden would not be installed however it was further resolved that a hard standing for MG Cars to park on would be installed, new shrubs around the centre tree would be planted, trees cut back near the pic-nic area and furniture installed. The Committee would consider further expenditure in next year's budget to provide a path if it was needed.*

A14. **Chilton Close Pathway**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Head of Service Delivery in respect of refurbishment of the Pathway at Chilton Close that ran from Hendred Way to Chilton Close recreation ground and was informed that a budget existed for such work to be undertaken.

It was **Resolved** *that the pathway be refurbished at an estimated cost of £6544.68 for the part of the pathway that was in the responsibility of the Town Council, this to be taken from the appropriate earmarked reserve.*

A15. **Jubilee Trees**

It was Resolved: that this item be referred to the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee.

A16 **Pond At Drayton Road Allotments**

Members received a report from the Head of Service Delivery that the Drayton Road Allotment Association had planned to install a pond on Allotment land. The Council had not received any Risk Assessments or Method Statements and had not given permission for such work to be undertaken, although at a previous meeting the Council had said it would assist in the preparation of a “scrape” should the Council agree such a plan.

It was **Resolved** to report back at the next meeting before any decision was made taking into account the relevant provisions of the leases. A meeting would be arranged between the Chairman and officers of the Council and Allotment Association if this was deemed necessary.

A17 **Salt Bins**

It was agreed at a previous meeting that the installation of salt bins around the town would be reviewed and further purchases and installations may be made. Requests had been received to install salt bins at Hadland Road and Old Farm Close. The Head of Service Delivery informed the meeting that Hadland Road had been identified as a site for a salt bin but was not included in the first round of installations. He advised that the Council should undertake a full review of potential locations before proceeding further.

It was **Resolved** that officers produce recommendations for further installations for the Committee to review and decide upon at its meeting of 7th November 2012.

A18. **Gate At Chaunterell Way**

Members received a report from the Head of Service Delivery and **Resolved** that a cattle grid entrance be installed at the Chaunterell Way play area, from the play area budget.

A19. **Fishing**

Members requested that a report on the Abingdon Fisheries be presented at its next meeting on 29th August 2012.

A20 **Publicity**

The Committee requested publicity be sought for the following:

- Jubilee
- Abingdon In Bloom Entry Form

A21 **Items For Next Meeting**

The Chairman had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda of each meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee so that future ideas and plans for the Town Council to work on can come from Members. Members were asked to contact officers, in writing, with any future agenda item requests.

A22 **Date of Next Meeting**

Members were informed that future meetings of the Amenities and Recreation Committee would be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 29th August 2012
- Wednesday 7th November 2012
- Wednesday 2nd January 2013
- Wednesday 20th February 2013

The meeting rose at 8.55pm

Signed Date

Chairman