

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in the Old Abbey House on Wednesday 2nd January 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Marilyn Badcock - Chairman
Councillor Andrew Todd - Vice Chairman
Councillor Alice Badcock
Councillor Jason Fiddaman

In Attendance: Mr Stephen Rich - Head of Service Delivery
Mr Timothy Badcock - Cemetery and Works Supervisor
Mr Nigel Warner - Town Clerk (for item A58 only)

A69 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames Councillor Monica Lovatt and Councillors Sandy Lovatt and Lesley Legge.

A70 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A71 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

A72 **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

- **A13 - MG Garden** – Members were informed that the furniture for the MG Garden had been delivered and was now waiting installation. The work on the hard standing had to be temporarily halted due to a wet patch which had been causing some difficulties in laying the surface. Thames Water had been out to investigate a water leakage but found no problems and the Council was now waiting for investigations on the sewerage pipes. The MG Car Club was preparing information boards for installing in the garden.
- **A41** – Jubilee Parks – As previously reported the legal work to establish the Jubilee Parks was being undertaken.
- The Chairman, Councillor Marilyn Badcock, updated Members of two Vale consultations on Arts, Sports and Leisure participation and Leisure and Sports Facilities. It was agreed that she, together with the Town Clerk, would co-ordinate a response with Committee members, by e-mail, for dispatch to the District Council by 11th January 2013.

A73 **Christmas Lights Working Group**

The Chairman of the Christmas Lights Working Group informed the Committee that a meeting will be held with the suppliers to inform them of the Council's disappointment that the solar powered lights on the Christmas trees had not worked. Town Centre traders who had responded to sponsoring the solar powered trees were to be written to explaining what the Council was doing with regard to this matter.

A74 **Summer Events Working Group**

The Committee received the minutes of the Summer Events Working Group held on 22nd November 2012 and **resolved** to approve the recommendations therein.

A75 **Abingdon in Bloom 2013**

The Committee received the minutes of the Abingdon In Bloom Sub Committee held on 10th December 2012 and **resolved** to approve the recommendations therein.

In discussing the above minutes Members requested that officers obtain prices for more seating in the Margaret Brown garden and also for the installation of railings along the edge adjacent to the River Thames.

A76 **Budget Estimates 2013 /2014 and Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above, as circulated with the agenda.

The Committee **resolved** to accept the Town Clerk's report along with a recommendation to increase Cemetery charges by 5 percent for the coming financial year 2013/2014 excluding the new Sanctum 2000 charges. It was noted that invoices were yet to be received for the Jubilee and Carpet bedding displays, and that these would come from the Abingdon In Bloom budget.

A77 **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Cemetery and Works Supervisor.

Members of the Committee, who had attended a recent funeral at the Spring Gardens Cemetery recently, congratulated the Cemetery and Works Supervisor on the professionalism of the staff in making arrangements for and at the funeral.

The meeting was informed that the order for 56 Sanctum 2000's was due to be delivered in March 2013 and the meeting asked if Officers could chase the company for an earlier delivery.

The meeting requested that individual meetings with local Funeral Directors be undertaken in the next few weeks to update them on progress on the new ashes section.

Replying to a question regarding visitor behaviour the Cemetery and Works Supervisor informed the meeting that no further problems had occurred.

It was **resolved** that the Cemetery and Works Supervisors report be approved.

A78 **Green Gym – Ock Valley Walk**

It was noted that the Abingdon Green Gym had proposed to take an increased role in assisting with the maintenance of the Ock Valley Walk, and perhaps to “adopt” an area within the Walk. This would be in addition to the tree and bulb planting, litter picking, removal of Himalayan Balsam and laying of woodchip along pathways, which they already carry out. The Green Gym had proposed an onsite meeting but the Chairman said she considered it more appropriate to meet representatives of the Green Gym to discuss their proposals at the Town Council offices at a date convenient to all parties. A report would come back to a future meeting.

A79 **Publicity**

The Committee considered that the following items would benefit from publicity:

- Fun in the Park and Evening event on 1st June 2013.
- Abingdon Herald sponsorship of the Abingdon In Bloom Competition

A80 **Items for Next Meeting**

Members were asked to contact officers, in writing, with any items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee (20th February 2013). The following item was notified for this meeting:

- External exercise equipment

A81 **Dates of meeting for 2012/13**

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee would be held on

- Wednesday 20th February 2013

Regarding future dates for 2013 / 2014, Members expressed their preference for future meetings to be held on a Wednesday evening.

A82 **Property Matters**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk, as circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to note the report and to set aside a sum of £3,000 from the Small Projects budget to take appropriate advice as detailed in the report. This matter to be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 7.55 pm

Amenities and Recreation Committee
2nd January 2013

Signed Date