

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in the Old Abbey House on Wednesday 20th February 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Marilyn Badcock - Chairman
Councillor Alice Badcock
Councillor Lesley Legge
Councillor Samantha Bowring

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)

A83 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames Councillor Monica Lovatt and Councillors Sandy Lovatt, Jason Fiddaman, Angela Lawrence and Andrew Todd.

A84 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A85 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2013 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman*

A86 **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

- **A13 - MG Garden** – Members were informed that the furniture had been installed in the MG Garden which left the hard standing to be completed. However due to recent weather conditions and the water table being very high at the present time a sump would have to be installed to see if this would allow the area to drain before the top surface was installed.
- **A41** – Christmas Lights – The Committee was informed that officers were waiting for an updated inventory from the contractors. When this was received a meeting would be called to discuss the Council's stock of lights and in particular the solar powered Christmas tree decorations.
- **A59 - Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report** - The Committee was informed that 56 Sanctum 2000 vaults were due to be installed the week commencing Monday 11th March 2013. Once installed Funeral Directors would be invited to visit the area with officers and the Chairman of Amenities and Recreation to introduce them to the new service offered by the Town Council.

A87 **Summer Events Working Group**

The Committee received the minutes of the Summer Events Working Group held on 11th February 2013 and **resolved** to approve the recommendations therein. The Chairman of the Summer Events Working Group reported that organisation for the 2013 Fun in the Park event was progressing well.

A88 **Abingdon in Bloom 2013**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Head of Service Delivery concerning the grounds maintenance work undertaken by the District Council. The Committee was informed that the Chairman was waiting a response from the Cabinet Member concerned at the District Council and would report back to the Committee in due course.

The Committee, on considering the minutes of the previous minutes, felt that railings at the Margaret Brown Garden would detract from the openness of the area and the splendid view of the river and wharf. The Committee felt that gates would be more appropriate at this site and asked officers to look into the cost of this and report back.

Councillor Samantha Bowring entered the meeting it being 7.20pm.

A89 **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 Town Clerk confirmed that there was £10,000 in the earmarked reserves for flood alleviation. The Committee **resolved** to accept the report of the Town Clerk.

A90 **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

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

There were several requests for more salt bins to be sited around the town. It was **resolved** to put this matter on the agenda of the next meeting.

Members requested that a letter be sent to TVE thanking them for their joint sponsorship of the Recycling of Christmas Trees event.

Members noted that a new bench had been installed in Bath Street however a further request for a bench at the junction of Bath Street with Stratton Way was made and officers were asked to investigate the possibility of siting one at this point and report back.

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

A91 **Green Gym – Ock Valley Walk**

The Chairman reported to the Committee that a meeting had been arranged with the Green Gym for the day following this committee meeting and she would report back to Members any new matters.

A92 **Publicity**

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

- Abingdon In Bloom Competition

A93 **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 (to be notified). The following item was notified for this meeting:

- Fisheries – Members requested a listing of all competitions for 2012 / 2013 and a breakdown of income for Day Permits on the fisheries.

A94 **Dates of meeting for 2012/13**

Members were informed that the 2013 / 2014 dates for meetings would be going to Town Council for approval shortly and they would be notified in due course of the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee.

A95 **Property Matters**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Head of Service Delivery, as circulated with the agenda. *It was **resolved** to note the report and to forward the report to the County Hall Museum Management Committee for their action in relation to preventative measures. Members were also reminded that a resolved delegation to the Town Clerk and Chairman already existed in relation to part of the report.*

The meeting rose at 7.55 pm

Signed Date

Amenities and Recreation Committee
20th February 2013