

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Roysse Court on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Alice Badcock - Chairman
Councillor Jan Morter - Vice Chairman
Councillor Samantha Bowring
Councillor Dennis Garrett
Councillor Jeanette Halliday
Councillor Robert Hall
Councillor Vicky Jenkins

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

A1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting.

A3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 11 February 2015 were accepted as a correct record and it was **resolved** accordingly.

Minute A10 – Roysse Court – It was noted that the fountain and trees had been removed from the Roysse Court Garden and replaced with a planter and two hanging basket trees. This was a temporary measure until a decision is made on any capital project in this area.

It was **resolved** that, in accordance with the Council's Committee Terms of Reference which state under Amenities and Recreation Committee: *“Roysse Court garden, noting that the Guildhall Committee should consider any capital project in relation to this area to then make a recommendation to the Amenities and Recreation Committee for onward referral to Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Council,”* the Chairman of the Guildhall Committee

should take this matter forward to the Guildhall Committee to review and to set a budget.

Minute A18 – Fishing – Members queried the fees and charges levied in relation to the corporate fisheries and as previously agreed Members would review this matter at the September meeting.

It was noted that the District Council were undertaking a review of the moorings along the Abingdon Stretch of the River Thames and considering new signage. It was suggested that it would be prudent to work with the District Council on this matter and to include fishing regulations on any new signage if possible. Members **resolved** accordingly.

Item A19– Request for Bins – Following a request from Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents Association and the decision of the last meeting not to install new bins in the area surrounded by Longfellow Drive and Wordsworth Avenue, the Works Team had been keeping the area under review. There had been no significant increase in litter or dog fouling in the area and therefore the **resolved** to keep the matter under review for a further three months until the next meeting in September 2015.

A20 – Trees in Spring Garden Cemetery – It was noted that an order was in place with Hillier Nurseries for a total of 100 trees and these should be delivered and planted in October 2015. These were to replace the trees which unfortunately had to be felled earlier in the year due to their poor condition and an infestation of mistletoe in the Spring Gardens Cemetery and also those felled last year in the Spring Road Cemetery.

(During discussion of this matter Councillors Vicky Jenkins and Robert Hall entered the meeting it being 7.05pm and Councillor Samantha Bowring entered the meeting, it being 7.08pm)

A4. **Amenities and Recreation Committee 2015 Report**

The Head of Services presented a report on the services and responsibilities which were within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Committee welcomed the report and thanked the Head of Services for his presentation. Members also thanked the Works Team for their efforts and continuing good work.

A5. **Abingdon in Bloom**

The meeting was informed that hanging baskets and containers had been installed over the last week or so and that the flower beds had been emptied, dressed with

manure and were in the process of being planted. Members congratulated the Works Team on making the town look so attractive.

The Committee **resolved** to contact Chris Ford in October with a view to creating plans for 2016.

A6. **Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer for the year 2014/2015 as circulated with the agenda. The Committee **resolved to accept the report.**

A7. **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 **resolved to accept the report.**

Members also sent their best wishes to Works Team member John Morris who was suffering from ill health.

A8. **Additional names for Abingdon-on-Thames War Memorial**

The request to have pre-WW1 names inscribed on the War Memorial was **denied.**

The Committee asked Officers to consider the criteria and policy for any future inscriptions on the memorial in time for discussion at the next meeting.

A9. **Town Entry Signs**

The Committee felt that the Town Entry signs should present a more corporate image and the Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to collate the appropriate information for new wording and design and submit them to the Head of Services for costing. The matter would then be discussed at the next meeting.

In the meantime, the Committee agreed that the current signs should be cleaned and this task would be managed by the Cemetery and Works Supervisor.

A10. **Play Areas**

The Head of Services reported that the Play Areas had been inspected by RoSPA and Zurich; he offered to take any interested Members on a tour of the sites.

Members raised questions regarding the safety and guarantee of wet pours. It was **resolved** that Officers should review the matter and return to the next meeting with a proposed programme of repair and replacement of wet pours in line with safety requirements.

A11. **Publicity**

It was agreed to publicise the 2015 flower displays and the web site should be updated accordingly.

A12. **New Cemetery**

It was agreed that the topic of the New Cemetery should be included on all future Agendas.

Meeting rose at 9.15 pm

Signed Date