

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Royse Court on Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Sandy Lovatt	Chairman
Councillor Robert Hall	Vice Chairman
Councillor Alice Badcock	
Councillor Dennis Garrett	
Councillor Vicky Jenkins	
Councillor Jan Morter	
Councillor Lorraine Oates	
Councillor Helen Pighills	

In Attendance:

Mr Stephen Rich	Assistant Town Clerk & Head of Services (Clerk to the meeting)
Mr Timothy Badcock	Cemetery & Works Supervisor
Councillor Margaret Crick	

A5. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Mike Badcock.

A6 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting.

A7. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the previous meeting on 10th February and 9th May 2016 be accepted as a correct record.

A8. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

Minute A42 – Play areas – Members were informed that the work to repair or replace the play area safety services had been completed.

Minute A52 – Town Entry Signs – New signage for the town entries had been ordered.

Minute A54 – New Cemetery – Contact had been made with the Vale of White Horse with regard to Phase 2 of the Local Plan and the provision of land for a new cemetery.

Minute A55 – Tree Survey – Members were informed that the tree survey had reported and this now required to be studied by officers before work was undertaken where necessary. The Committee **resolved** to delegate all tree work to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee, within the previously agreed budget.

A9 **Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer for the period from 1st April to 31st March 2016, as circulated with the agenda. The Committee **resolved** to approve the report including the management accounts for the period to 31st March 2016.

A10 **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 **resolved** to approve the report and to express its condolences at the death of Mr Brian Wilkinson who retired from the Works Team in November 2015.

A11. **Amenities and Recreation Committee Overview**

The Assistant Town Clerk / Head of Services gave the Committee an overview of what the Amenities and Recreation Committee did and was responsible for. This was received by Members and questions from Members were responded to.

A12. **Christmas Light Sub Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Vicky Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Lorraine Oates that the following Members be appointee to the Christmas Lights Sub Committee:

Councillor Alice Badcock, Councillor Dennis Garrett and Councillor Jan Morter.

A13. **New Cemetery**

This item was reported on under Matters Arising.

A14 **Resurfacing of Spring Road Cemetery Entrance.**

It was **resolved** to accept the quote from JDC Construction Ltd for the repair to the surfacing of the entrance to Spring Road Cemetery.

A15 **Play Equipment**

A Capital budget of £30,000 had been set aside in the 2016 / 2017 budget for play area improvements. The Committee discussed areas that required new equipment and asked officers to return to the next meeting with proposals for new play equipment for the Masefield Crescent play area.

A16 **Corporate Fisheries**

Members were requested by officers to undertake a review of the fishing charges for the Abingdon-on-Thames Corporate Fisheries.

It was **resolved** that a Working Group be set up to make recommendations for the 2016 / 2017 financial year.

It was Proposed by Councillor Jan Morter and seconded by Councillor Sandy Lovatt that the following Members be appointed to the Working Group: Councillors Dennis Garratt, Robert Hall and Helen Pighills.

It was further **resolved** that the Working Group would report direct to the Town Clerk and the Chairman of Amenities and Recreation on their findings.

A17 **Motion from Town Council**

The following motion, passed by the Town Council on 23rd March 2016 had been passed to the Amenities and Recreation Committee for consideration.

“Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council resolves to work with other councils to ascertain which grassed verges and open spaces within the town would be suitable to become wild grass or wildflower areas. These areas would require far less maintenance than traditional grassed areas helping to save money for other vital services and would improve biodiversity within Abingdon, subject to:

- (i) An understanding that this motion does not imply an intention to adopt these areas for maintenance by the Town Council;*
- (ii) That there is capacity within council staff to take on this work;*
- (iii) The Town Council is not committing itself to pay for the upkeep of these areas.”*

The Committee discussed the motion in great depth and although it was sympathetic it considered that the Town Council did not own any land that would be suitable for such wild grass or wild flower areas. The Committee were informed that where possible areas were not cut as a matter of course, including the Spring Road Cemetery and certain areas around Recreation grounds.

It was **resolved** that the motion be forwarded to the District Council for their consideration.

The Committee also **resolved** to accept some crocus bulbs from the Rotary Club of Abingdon for planting in the cemeteries and St Helen's churchyard in recognition of the eradication of Polio worldwide.

A18 **Visits to Town Council Facilities**

The Committee were invited by officers to visit the Town Council's different facilities around the town. The Committee requested that officers offer a choice of dates and see how many Members were available.

A19 **Items for Next Agenda**

There were no new items for the agenda of the next meeting.

A20 **Publicity**

There were no items on the agenda that the Members of the Committee wished to publicise.

A21 **Dates of meetings for 2016 / 2017**

Because of a clash of meeting dates with the District Council the Chairman asked the meeting if the planned dates for the Amenities and Recreation Committee could be amended as follows:

- Meeting on 7th September amend to 31st August 2016
- Meeting on 30th November amend to 7th December 2016
- Meeting on 1st March amend to 23rd February 2017

It was **resolved** that the proposed new dates for meetings of the Amenities and Recreation Committee be approved.

A22 **Exclusion of the public, including the Press**

The Chairman Cllr Sandy Lovatt moved and it was **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.

A23 **Confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2016**

Resolved: that the confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

The meeting rose at 9.20pm

Signed Date