

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Royse Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Alice Badcock	Chairman
Councillor Dennis Garrett	
Councillor Jeanette Halliday	
Councillor Vicky Jenkins	
Councillor Helen Pighills	
Councillor Mike Badcock	ex-officio Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee

In Attendance:

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

A21. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jan Morter, Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames and Councillors Robert Hall and Lorraine Oates.

A22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting.

A23. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the previous meeting on 24th May 2017 be accepted as a correct record.

A24. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

Minute A14 – Drainage on Community Land – Awaiting quotation to provide suitable drainage for the Chilton Close entrance to the recreation area. The Assistant Town Clerk informed the meeting that contractors had looked at the site and that, as other methods of drainage had failed, it could be more expensive than originally anticipated.

Minute A30 – A new bench, manufactured from recycled materials, had been installed in Caldecott Road.

Minute A43 – The Works Team were in receipt of a new Mitsubishi L200 van which had now been in service a few months.

Minute A14 – An order had been placed for a new tractor and this is expected to be delivered mid-September.

Minute A11 – The meeting was informed that the Town Clerk had submitted a letter to the District Council requesting a new cemetery be included in the Local Plan Phase 2 consultation. District Council Members also on this committee reported that they had raised the matter with the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Minute A17 - Previously it had been reported that new signage was required along the length of the Fisheries and that the Town Council had offered to work in partnership with the District Council who also wish to add new signage in the area. Officers informed the meeting that an offer had been made to the District Council to part finance new signage providing fishing information was displayed on them. To date no response from the District Council had been received.

A Member requested that the regulations of the fisheries, translated into different languages, be made available for distribution in the Information Centre. The Cemetery and Works Supervisor stated that he had some and would make these available.

A Member raised the issue of moorings along the north bank of the River Thames. The Oxfordshire Act 1985 prohibited moorings along this north bank from the confluence of the River Ock to Abingdon Bridge. He asked if the Council could erect signage to prohibit boats from mooring there. The Assistant Town Clerk was asked to look into this matter and report back.

A25. **Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st July 2017, as circulated with the agenda. The Committee **resolved** to approve the report.

A26. **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Cemetery and Works Supervisor as circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve the report.

Councillor Lorraine Oates had given apologies for the meeting but had requested that her thanks be conveyed to the Works Team for the hard work that had gone in to maintaining the town floral displays so well.

The Committee congratulated Mr Sean Challinton on passing his Trailer Test and the Chairman asked that this be reported to Town Council when it meets.

It was **resolved** that Mr Chris Ford, of World War One and that the displays would reflect this. Wick Farm Nurseries be invited to the next meeting of this committee to discuss the floral displays around the Town for 2018. It was **resolved** that the main commemoration for 2018 would be the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

A27. **New Cemetery**

There was nothing further to report on this matter.

A28 **Play Areas**

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk detailing the requirements for new equipment in the Town Council's play areas. The Committee **resolved** to accept the report and to delegate to the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee the purchase and installation of new equipment within the allocated budget.

A29 **Cemetery Improvements**

The Committee were informed of a quote for the upgrading of the Spring Road Cemetery roadway. The Committee requested that further quotes be obtained for this project.

A30. **Tree Planting and Replacement**

The Committee were informed that, although the Council's record on planting trees was good, there was no policy on replacing trees that had died, collapsed or had to be felled. Members considered officers request for a policy and it was **resolved** that:

- Any trees removed to be replaced, not necessarily in the same place as the previous tree although the Council would attempt to plant one in the same area if possible.
- Indigenous trees be used.

It was reported, in relation to arboricultural work, (minute A30) that urgent work was needed to take place on trees for which the Council was responsible. The officers reported that it was likely that the budget for arboricultural work would be exceeded for the current year and that consequently further funding for works needed to be requested from the Finance & General Purposes Committee if the Council was to undertake necessary works in order to fulfil its obligations to keep its stock of trees in good order and as safe as is reasonably possible. It was resolved that this request should be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

A31. **Allotments**

Members had requested that arrangements should be made for Town Councillors to visit the allotment sites. It was agreed that individual Members would contract officers to arrange visits.

A32. **Publicity**

It was **resolved** that publicity be given that the rules of fishing on the Abingdon Corporate Fisheries were available at the Information Centre in different languages.

A33. **Items for Next Meeting**

Members had no additional items for the next agenda of the Amenities and Recreation Committee at this stage. The Chairman, Cllr Alice Badcock, asked Members to inform officers, in writing and in advance of the next meeting should they request an agenda item to be added.

A34. **Date of next Meeting**

Members were informed of the dates of future meetings of the Amenities and Recreation Committee which were:

- Wednesday 8th November 2017;
- Wednesday 7th February 2018.

A35 **Exclusion of the public, including the Press**

The Chairman Cllr Alice Badcock, 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.

A36 **Caldecott Recreation Ground – Lease / Licence Saxton Rovers Football Club**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above. A recommendation was made to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to grant a new lease and licence to Saxton Rovers Football Club the terms of which are detailed in the confidential appendix to these minutes.

The meeting rose at 7.45pm.

Signed Date