

22 November 2018

To: All Members of the **Amenities and Recreation Committee:**

Councillor Alice Badcock - Chairman
Councillor Helen Pighills - Vice Chairman
Councillor Dennis Garrett
Councillor Robert Hall
Councillor Jeanette Halliday
Councillor Vicky Jenkins
Councillor Lorraine Oates

The Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames - (ex-officio)

Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee
(ex-officio)

To: All other Town Council members for Information only.

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Amenities & Recreation Committee to be held on **Wednesday 28th November 2018** at **7.00 pm** in the Royse Court Offices.

Yours faithfully

N. E. Warner
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

3 Minutes

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2018 (previously circulated and approved by the Town Council as a report of the meeting; attached).

4 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

To discuss any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Item A12– Play Areas – Maintenance has now been completed on the of the Adult Gym equipment in Boxhill recreation ground and Ladygrove Paddock.

Item A15 – Cemetery Mechanical Digger – This item has been ordered and is now awaiting delivery.

Item A28 – Boxhill Recreation Ground – Since the last meeting where Members received a report from the District Council’s Enforcement Officer, there have been no further complaints received concerning dog fouling in the Boxhill recreation area.

5 Financial Report

To receive and consider the financial report for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st October 2018 and the report of the Treasurer / Responsible Finance Officer. Also, to receive the budget estimates for the year 2019 / 2020 and the report of the Treasurer / Responsible Finance Officer is attached.

Members are also asked to consider increases in the charges for the following:

- Cemetery – see Annex 1.
- Allotments
- Fishing

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

To receive a report from the Cemetery and Works Supervisor (to follow).

7. **Tree Surveys**

A recent Court of Appeal decision in the case of Cavanagh v Witley Parish Council the court found that the parish council's approach to inspection of trees on a blanket three-year cycle was inadequate and failed to take into account trees in higher risk locations, asserting that a more frequent and rigorous inspection of a particular tree would have identified the decay that subsequently led to the tree failing. The parish council appealed but was rejected and the original finding was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

Taking the above into account Members should be aware that, at present, the Town Council surveys its stock of trees every four years. This, according to the court ruling, is not sufficient and obviously three years is not as well.

It is therefore recommended that Members should consider that the Town Council should survey their tree stock twice within the cycle of a Council ideally in years one and three. The cost of the tree survey in 2016 was £4,200 plus VAT.

Members are asked to discuss and inform officers of their decision accordingly.

8. **Abingdon in Bloom**

There are no known anniversaries next year on which to theme "Abingdon In Bloom", therefore it is suggested that all flower displays (beds and baskets) should be vibrant in colour.

Members are requested to consider the above and inform their officers accordingly.

9. **Market Place**

Members will have noticed that many of the bollards in the Market Place have been damaged or destroyed by vehicles hitting them trying to navigate the sharp turn in the service road by the Nat West bank. Others have been struck and are leaning whilst others are in a bad way through being dropped by various users of the Market Place. There is no solution to this ongoing problem bollards in this locality will always be knocked. It has also become apparent there was a design fault meaning that the cover plates seized and do not close fully.

Members are requested to consider the replacement of the cast iron bollards with “plastic” models which can easily be replaced if damaged. These would be aesthetically suitable for the location and cheaper to replace if and when damaged. It is estimated that the cost of replacing the bollards around the Market Place and County Hall will be £15,000.

Members are asked to consider the above and if agreeable to the work being undertaken make a recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (responsible for property) for funding.

10. **Publicity**

The Committee is requested to consider any items on the agenda which would benefit from publicity.

11. **Items for Next Meeting**

Members are requested to consider items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee. This will enable officers to explore future items with a view to giving some guidance at future meetings.

17. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next Amenities and Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday 6th February 2019.