



# ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Nigel E. Warner, M.A.(Oxon)  
Town Clerk  
Telephone: (01235) 522642  
Facsimile: (01235) 533112  
Email: enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk  
Website: www.abingdon.gov.uk

Royse Court,  
Bridge Street,  
Abingdon-on-Thames.  
OX14 3HU

12 November 2015

To: All Members of the Amenities and Recreation Committee:


Councillor Alice Badcock - Chairman  
Councillor Jan Morter - Vice Chairman  
Councillor Samantha Bowring  
Councillor Dennis Garrett  
Councillor Robert Hall  
Councillor Jeanette Halliday  
Councillor Vicky Jenkins  
  
The Mayor of Abingdon - (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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00 pm** in the meeting room at the Town Council offices, Royse Court.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 (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 A10 – Roysse Court Garden – in discussion with the Chairman of the Guildhall committee it had been agreed that £30,000 be set aside for the refurbishment of Roysse Court Gardens. Members may wish to delegate the design and costing of this project to the Town Clerk for referral back to this Committee at a later date.

Item A19– **Request for Bins** – The Works Team have continued, since the last meeting, to monitor the area of the Wordsworth Green for any problems with rubbish being discarded on the green.

As there has been no problem in this area around Wordsworth Green your officers are recommending to Members that a bin is not installed and this matter be closed.

**A20 – Trees in Spring Garden Cemetery** – 100 trees have been delivered to the Spring Gardens cemetery and the Works Team are now undertaking the task of planting them. This, of course, will take some weeks to complete however the Council will soon undertake selling sponsorship of this trees as agreed at a previous meeting.

5 **Fence and Trees At Elizabeth Avenue Play Area**

A complaint has been received from a resident in Beagle Close whose house adjoins the Elizabeth Avenue play area. The complaint concerns the fence that partitions their property from the area and an oak tree growing there.

Regarding the fence the residents are of the opinion that the fence belongs to the Council and therefore not their responsibility. Your officers have taken legal advice on this matter and are of the opinion that the fence does belong to the resident, as do all other fences belong to individual residents that properties adjoin the area. The fence is very dilapidated but has not deteriorated much since the resident in Beagle Close installed a new fence further in to their property. (See photograph attached).

Regarding the oak tree the complaint is that it overhangs their garden and that the roots may be damaging their property. Your officers have again looked at this tree and consider that the overhang is not substantial and it is at a high point, this being due to works undertaken by the Council, at the residents request in recent years. Regarding the root question the Council has not received any proof that any damage has occurred. The residents have been asked for an insurance report but this has not been forthcoming. They have also been informed of the Town Council's policy of inspecting the trees by a professional arboriculturist every four years and that the next inspection will be carried out in 2016. (see photograph attached),

Members are requested to consider this matter as the residents have appealed the decision of your officers that the fence is not Town Council property and that the tree will not be felled.

6. **River Close Tree and Litter Bin**

A complaint has been received from a resident in River Close regarding a Silver Birch tree and a litter bin which are situated to the rear of their property in the River Close play area.

The resident complains that the tree is overhanging her garden and that she suffers health problems due to the tree. Your officers have taken a look at the situation and regard the tree as an amenity to the area and cannot find a reason why the tree should be felled. (see correspondence and photograph attached). However there may be a case for pruning and this will be picked up during the tree survey next year.

Regarding the bin the resident complains of the smell of dog waste being put into the bins and requests a bin with a lid. Your officers have investigated this and find that the bins are emptied four or five times a week and it is never more than a quarter full containing only a small amount of dog waste in plastic bags.

The District Council are now encouraging the practice that dog waste be placed in ordinary bins so that it is mixed with other waste and becomes easier to incinerate. Dog waste bins will eventually be replaced by ordinary bins without the need for a lid.

Members are asked to consider this matter and instruct your officers accordingly.

7. **Abingdon In Bloom 2016**

Mr Chris Ford from Wick Farm Nurseries will be in attendance to discuss the floral displays and requirements for 2016.

8. **Financial Report**

To receive and consider the financial report for the year April to October 2015 / 2016. Also to receive the budget estimates for the year 2016 / 2017 and the report of the Treasurer is attached.

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

To receive the Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report (attached).

10. **Hedge at Spring Road Cemetery**

A request has been received from a resident in Spring Gardens to remove the hedge that separates the Spring Road Cemetery (Old Cemetery) from the Spring Gardens residential properties.

Your officers have looked into this request and feel that the removal of the hedge would be detrimental to the privacy of both those attending the cemetery and those who live in Spring Gardens. Also the hedge does provide some security for the residents in Spring Gardens and its removal would probably result in a request being made for a fence to be installed as happened elsewhere in the cemetery. This would be at the expense of the Town Council.

It is the recommendation of your officers that this hedge is not removed and Members are requested to discuss this request and instruct their officers accordingly.

11 **Town Entry Signs**

To receive a verbal update from the Head of Services.

11 **Play Areas**

To receive a verbal report from the Head of Services with quotes for the replacement of safety surfaces in the Town Council play areas.

12 **New Cemetery**

To receive an update from the Head of Services.

14. **Publicity**

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

15 **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.

16 **Dates of meetings for 2015/16**

Future meeting dates of the Amenities and Recreation Committee are:

- 10 February 2016

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

The Chairman will move:

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.

1. Drayton Road Allotments
2. Cemetery Matters
3. Abingdon Corporate Fisheries

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Roysse Court on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 7.00pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Alice Badcock	- Chairman
Councillor Jan Morter	- Vice Chairman
Councillor Samantha Bowring	
Councillor Dennis Garrett	
Councillor Robert Hall	
Councillor Vicky Jenkins	
Councillor Helen Pighills	- Mayor - Ex Officio

**In Attendance:**

Councillor Michael Badcock	
Mr Stephen Rich	- Assistant Town Clerk and Head of Services
Mr Timothy Badcock	- Cemetery & Works Supervisor

A13. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeanette Halliday and Councillor Sandy Lovatt, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

A14. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting.

A15. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the previous meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A16. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

Minute A10 – Roysse Court – It was noted that this matter is being dealt with by the Guildhall Committee as part of the Guildhall Development Project.

Minute A19 – Request for Bins – The Committee were informed by the Head of Services that the Works Team had continued to monitor the litter situation at Wordsworth Green. The Committee understood that a local resident had been litter picking the area however the amount of rubbish collected did not warrant a bin and all the associated services that required. The Council Staff would continue to monitor the area as a matter of course and pick up any litter.

It was **resolved** that the request for a bin on the Wordsworth Green be denied but the Committee wished a letter of thanks to be sent to the local resident.

#### A17. Abingdon in Bloom

Members were pleased to hear of the many compliments that the Council had received 2015 regarding the floral displays in the town.

Members noted that Mr Chris Ford of Wick Farm Nurseries would be in attendance at the November meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee to discuss the 2016 floral displays.

#### A18. Financial Report

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer for the year April to July 2015/2016 as circulated with the agenda. The Committee **resolved** *to accept the report.*

#### A19. 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.*

Councillor Michael Badcock asked that an application be made to the Joint Environmental Trust funding for repair of the west path at St Helen's Churchyard which holds water during wet weather.

Councillor Michael Badcock also wished the Committee to note that he had received good comments regarding the Works Team attitude to work, their politeness and helpfulness. The Committee were grateful for this information and asked that it be noted in the minutes and that the Works Team be informed.



**A20. Additional names for Abingdon-on-Thames War Memorial**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Services. It was felt that the matter of future inscriptions on the Abingdon War Memorial or a new memorial would have to be a Town Council decision as and when the time arose.

**A21. Town Entry Signs**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had met recently with the Head of Services and quotations were being sought for new Town Entry signage.

**A22. Play Areas**

The Committee noted the RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) reports concerning the eight play areas belonging to the Town Council. The Committee **resolved** that the 2015 / 2016 budget for play areas be set aside for the repair or the safety surfaces. It was also **resolved** that the awarding of the contract for the repair of safety surfaces be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee once the quotes had been received.

**A23 Abingdon-on-Thames Fisheries**

Two members of the public with a local interest in fishing were invited to attend the meeting to discuss angling activities on the Abingdon Corporate Fisheries and anglers concerns over charges. The Committee heard that charges were considered high in Abingdon because the waters were not managed like commercial fisheries and therefore the high charges were not justified.

The Committee also heard of the concerns of illegal fishing along the Thames and of fish being taken from the waters. The Committee was informed that Abingdon Fisheries were considered some of the best along the River Thames for angling and in particular for roach.

The Committee thanked the Members of the public and deferred the rest of the discussion to later in the agenda.

**A24 New Cemetery**

There had been no further action on this matter.

**A25 Publicity**

It was resolved that the Fair Service be added to the Town Council Internet site, Facebook and Twitter accounts

## A26 Items for Next Agenda

The Committee requested that the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015:

- New Cemetery
- Town Entry Signage
- Abingdon In Bloom
- Play Areas

Mr Timothy Badcock, Cemetery and Works Supervisor entered the meeting it being 8.35pm.

## A27 Exclusion of the public, including the Press

The Chairman proposed 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.

## A28 Land Holdings

Members were shown maps of the Town Council's recent exercise to plot the Council's land holdings. Members were informed that they were available to view in the Town Council offices.

## A29 Drayton Road Allotment site

See confidential appendix.

## A30 Fisheries

See confidential appendix.

The Committee **resolved** to delegate to the Town Clerk in consultation with Councillor Michael Badcock and Councillor Helen Pighills to review the charges and draw up proposals for the next Amenities and Recreation Committee to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Meeting rose at 9.25 pm

*Amenities and Recreation Committee*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015*

Signed ..... Date .....