

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held in Roysse Court on Wednesday 2nd 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 3rd 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 18th 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.

Comment [NW1]: Do we want this public yet?

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 18th November 2015.

Comment [NW2]: This bit can be public

Meeting rose at 9.25 pm

Signed Date

DRAFT