

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 11th March 2010 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wootton Bassett

PRESENT: Councillor: Steve Bucknell, Susan Doyle, Owen Gibbs,
Paul Heaphy, Mike Leighfield and Bill Roberts

Also in Attendance: Councillor: Peter Doyle, Chris Wannell and Jenny Stratton

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Team Leader and Susan Huish, Administrative Assistant

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mary Champion and Linda Frost.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations were made.

50. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

[a] Bikers will ride through Wootton Bassett High Street on Sunday 14th March 2010 to raise funds for the charity Afghan Heroes

[b] The Area Board has awarded funds of £1,420.42 towards the replacement of the community notice board under the Town Hall and

£2,700.00 towards the purchase of machinery to improve the Ballards Ash Sports Ground.

[c] The Methodist Church has organised a litter picking morning on Saturday 13th March 2010 to start at 10am.

51. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 21st January 2010 (A/5/2009-2010). Copy previously circulated.

52. JUBILEE LAKE COMMUNITY GROUP

To consider a report on a meeting of the Jubilee Lake Community Group held on Wednesday 10th February 2010. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

53. JUBILEE LAKE GROUP

Letter from Roger Rowthorn, Jubilee Lake Group Co-ordinator. Copy was attached.

Members were asked to consider the following:-

[a] Request from Roger Rowthorn to use part of the Ballards Ash sports field for a proposed event on Saturday 3rd July 2010. This follows on from the successful event organised by the Jubilee Lake Group on 6th June 2009. The diary has been checked and the venue is free on this date.

[b] To carry out research in order to erect a sculpture in Jubilee Lake.

The concept of a sculpture/piece of artwork, was included within the original plans for the development of Jubilee Lake. A budget of £2196.77 remains for this work.

Such a project would provide the group with an opportunity to work with local artists. Furthermore, the group would be able to seek funding for the project from the Area Board, Arts Councils, and Landfill Tax,

with which assistance could be provided through the new Community Planning Group.

The Committees instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to;

[a] Support the idea of the group researching the idea of a sculpture but offer no funding for this project

[b] Support the event at Ballards Ash on Saturday 3rd July 2010.

54. EVENTS WORKING PARTY

To consider a report on a meeting of the Events Working Party held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010. Copy was attached.

RESOLVED to adopt the report noting that the question of moving the Christmas Lights event to an alternative day will be considered at the next Amenities meeting following further consultation by the Events Working Party.

55. WOOTTON BASSETT CARNIVAL 2010

Report from Susan Huish, Administrative Assistant, advising Members of a request from Gillian Hughes seeking funds for this year's Wootton Bassett Carnival. Copy was attached.

At a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23rd April 2009, Members resolved to make a donation of £2000.00 to the Carnival Committee noting that they retain some of the proceeds from the event to support future Carnivals. Gillian Hughes advised Members that an amount of £4000.00 had been retained for the 2010 Carnival.

Members were advised that the Town Councils annual budget for Street Entertainment/Events for the financial year 2009/2010 was £5,000.00 of which £2629.40 had been awarded leaving a balance of £2370.60.

The Committees instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to;

[a] Make a donation of £1550.00 to the Carnival, in order to underwrite the cost of the Bournemouth Brass Band and the Carnival insurance

[b] Roll over the balance of £820.60 into next year's Street Entertainment/ budget

[c] Consider whether this grant aid should, in future, be administered under the Revenue and Resources Committee Grant Aid scheme.

56. TOWN GUIDE WORKING PARTY

To consider reports on meetings of the Town Guide Working Party held on Thursday 19th November 2009 and Thursday 18th February 2010. Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

57. NEW ROAD FENCE

Report from Mr Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader, making recommendations to replace the chain link fence at New Road Copy was attached.

The chain link fence that runs along the perimeter edge of New Road Play Area is worn out dilapidated. A stream runs the whole length of the play area and the Town Council are concerned that children will be able to gain access to this area through the broken fence.

Three quotes for steel palisade fencing were supplied by reputable companies, all of which had been used by the Town Council on previous occasions.

- Quotation 'A' - £13,794.00
- Quotation 'B' - £13,768.00
- Quotation 'C' - £12,958.00

The Town Clerk advised Members that funding this project would be met from the Amenities Project Fund 2010/2011, which has a balance of £40,000.

The Committees instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to;

- [a] Seek quotes for replacement chain link fencing
- [b] Investigate annual maintenance costs for chain link fencing against other types of fencing.

Councillor Chris Wannell left the meeting.

58. PLAY BUILDER SCHEME

To receive a report from Michelle Temple, Administrative Team Leader, providing Members with a further update to the report submitted to the Amenities Committee on Thursday 7th January 2010. Copy was attached.

Members were advised that Monster Play, commenced work at the Show Field Play Area on Wednesday 10th March 2010, with a deadline of 31st March 2010 to complete the work.

Wiltshire Council will support the opening of the Play Area with a donation of £300.00, to be spent within this financial year. Town Council Administrative Staff are currently investigating ideas and Monster Play will provide some promotional gifts.

The Committees instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to;

- [a] Note the report and confirm the position to date authorising the play day and opening event as recommended
- [b] Thank Michelle Temple for her comprehensive report
- [c] Involve Wootton Bassett School with the opening of the play area.

59. SCALE OF FEES

The Council annually reviews the scale of fees charged for services provided by the Council. In recent years it has been normal practice for the Council to increase the scale of fees by 5% which is slightly ahead of the rate of inflation.

The exception to this has been Cemetery Fees where it has been the policy of the Council to increase these by 25% per annum until such a time that the cost of this services reaches a breakeven point which is now has.

Attached were copies of the various fees charged by the Council for its services. Last year the Committee undertook an extensive review of charges against services provided by other authorities in the area. The Town Councils charges were found to be broadly in line.

The Committee was asked to consider its position for the forthcoming financial year.

RESOLVED to;

[a] Increase the fees for services provided by the Council by 3%.

[b] Investigate ways of alleviating the car parking problem at the Civic Centre.

60. WAR MEMORIAL SURROUND

Report from Mr Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader. Copy was attached. The report outlined both the advantages and disadvantages of retaining the turf box as a permanent fixture at the War Memorial.

Wiltshire Council has advised the Town Council that planning permission was not required to erect the turf box as a permanent fixture.

The Committees instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to;

[a] Support to keep the War Memorial surround as a permanent fixture

[b] Investigate the use of granite rather than timber.

61. COST OF VANDALISM

Report from Mr Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader.
Copy was attached.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

62. PRESS RELEASES

The Committee was asked to consider whether it would like any Press Releases issued in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue a Press Release about the Play Builder Scheme at New Road Play Area. To be released towards the end of the month.

Meeting closed at 9.17pm