

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

**Virtual TEAMS meeting of Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces on Monday
18th January 2021 at 7p.m**

P R E S E N T

Councillors Dolton, Holford, Keats-Rohan, Kidley, Lester,
Town Clerk, Mrs Paula Lopez
In Attendance – Tracey Collins (Officer and Minute Taker)

549. TO ADVISE THOSE IN ATTENDANCE OF THE PROTOCOL FOR THE MEETING

Councillor Kidley reminded attendees of the protocol for the meeting.

550. APOLOGIES

Mr Bryan Gilbey

551. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no admissions to the Public

552. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in our Council's Standing Orders code of Conduct (Item 13) in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under code of conduct and his right to participate and vote on the matter (guidelines are available at the meeting and all Councillors have received a copy prior to the meeting).

There were no declarations of interest.

553. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU 15 MINUTES IN TOTAL

There was no public participation

554. VARIANCE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED: THAT in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items and that the papers relating to these items remain confidential on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public's interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:-

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester and Seconded by Councillor Dolton that the following Agenda be put into Confidential

Agenda – 8(iii) ALLOTMENT TENANT – CONFIDENTIAL

555. PARKS, GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES MINUTES

To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Meeting held on the 14th September 2020, as set out on pages 125-128 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Dolton and Seconded by Councillor Holford and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 14th September 2020 as set out on pages 125 - 128 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

556. ALLOTMENTS

(i) The Allotment Officer stated that there were 27 people now waiting for an allotment. This is an all-time high.

(ii) Mrs Collins explained that one of the new tenants had put a swing on his allotment there had been a complaint about the allotment being used as a gathering for the parents and friends with children. The current agreement does not mention play equipment. A discussion took place and was agreed that the swing should be removed for a number of reasons.

- 1) The safety of the equipment
- 2) Covid, the swing could be used by anybody on site or walking past
- 3) Security, risk of theft
- 4) Set a president to other families, this is not what the allotment is for.

It was proposed by Councillor Holford and seconded by Councillor Dolton **that** the office would write to the tenant and ask that the swing be removed, explaining the reasons why.

It was agreed to review the agreement, update as required and send to all tenants in due course.

Although children are encouraged to participate with their parents at the allotments, this would be way of digging, weeding and planting or playing in the mud. The allotments should not be used as a playground.

557. PARKS STAFF

(i) Report from the Parks Foreman was emailed and read out to Councillors. One concern was the about of verbal abuse the staff receive. The parks team have been advised to direct members of the public with queries or complaints directly to the office.

A discussion took place with regard to how the concrete from the playground roundabout was being broken up, it was confirmed the concrete base was a platform for the roundabout and nothing was being dug up to ensure we comply with English Heritage guidance.

558. KINECROFT

i) **Flooding** - Councillor Keats-Rohan explained, that due to the Covid situation there was no update, OCC don't feel it is a priority but will be dealt with in due course.

ii) **Saxon Banks** – Councillor Keats-Rohan explained that an email had been received by a member of public with regards to the state of the Saxon banks, people are abusing the ditch, rubbish is being fly-tipped and some residents have extended their gardens into the bank. It was agreed that when COVID restriction are lifted a letter should be written to all residents reminding them that they should not being doing this. The ditches all need to be cleared and we need to stop the parks staff dumping their arisings first and foremost, this could lead to prosecution by English Heritage if we don't comply with their guidance. The ditches are filling up, they used to be large ditches, we need to ensure they are cleared and kept clear.

To note, provisional dates, dependant on Covid Restrictions.

29th April-1st May – Perry Hatwell's Spring Fair

9th May – Wallingford Vehicle Rally

6th November – Bonfire and Fireworks Display

559. BULL CROFT

i). Councillors were advised that the Multi-use and Tennis Courts have been closed during lockdown, also the infant roundabout is out of action awaiting parts to be delivered, it will be repaired as soon as possible.

ii). The Town Clerk reported that an asbestos survey had been carried out, (awaiting the report), and asbestos has been found at the Pavilion, mainly on the bowls club side, this would be reported to the Bull Croft Trust Charity on 25th January 2021.

Crowmarsh Youth Football have cancelled their matches and training sessions and there are no sessions for Personal Training booked.

560. CASTLE GARDENS

To note, forthcoming events:-

561. OPEN SPACES

i) **Christmas** - Thank you to the Tree Barn for the lovely tree, Merlin Lighting for putting up and taking down the lighting and mini trees and to Benson Sawmills for collecting, erecting and dismantling the main tree. Also to the parks staff for ensuring everyone's safety and to Councillor Lester for supplying the silver stars.

ii) Scooters on the market place are not currently a problem

iii) **Young Traders Market and filming in Castle Gardens** – Mr Prunier is unavailable to report but the Market was a great success and much positive feedback was received. Filming in the Castle Gardens has gone well in fact a subsequent booking has taken place.

iv) **Lidl's Art Grant** - Councillor Lester emailed a number of photographs and drawings to Councillors, proposing the ideas for the bench and notice board to be placed outside Lidl. Councillors were in favour of the ideas so Councillor Lester will put forward to Tourism & Economic Development

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Dolton and RECOMMENDED: THAT this be taken to full Council to be approved.

iv) **Communication from the Charter Market** – Councillors discussed the email regarding the size of the Christmas tree and the impact on the stalls especially during Covid. It was agreed that the Office staff would work closely with the traders again and in more detail and also earlier in the year with regard to sizing of the tree and also the possibility of moving stalls around especially if Covid is still a problem in the area. Mrs Collins and Councillors Dolton and Lester will mark out a plan of the market place ready

for the Christmas period. Councillor Dolton suggested closing the roads one or all of the Fridays to incorporate more of the young traders.

To note, provisional dates, dependant on Covid Restrictions.

13th March – Wallingford Litter Pick contact Mark Brett direct.

Councillor Lester reported that the Annual Pancake Race would not go ahead in 2021.

562. MOORINGS

i) There are currently seven boats booked to use the winter moorings, the office has their application forms, insurance and assurances they will not be living aboard. Councillor Kidley asked if boaters were allowed to rent out their boat. Mrs Collins confirmed that there was no commercial use allowed at the moorings. Air B&B or any sort of business use.

ii) The Town Clerk reported that there was some subsidence at the moorings, on the Wallingford side close to the Boathouse. Oxford Direct Services will investigate and report back as soon as possible. We have had a couple of boats move for safety. The Town Council did have some repairs carried out in 2016, the cost at the time was nearly £10,000, the Town Clerk will be looking at the insurance document to see if it covered the repairs.

563. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Saxon Banks - Councillor Keats-Rohan

Lidl Bench and Notice Board Update

Confidential items on page 255

Meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces

2021.01.20 tc

Chairman