

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

of the

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee
Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Wallingford
on Monday 6th November 2017

P R E S E N T

The Mayor, Councillor Kidley

Councillors Baroni, Lester, Upcraft,
In Attendance – Mrs Tracey Collins (Officer and minute taker), Mr Bryan Gilbey
(Parks Foreman)

Guests – Councillors Lloyd and Whelan

369. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Davidson.

370. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no admissions to the Public

371. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation

372. IMPROMPTU PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 MINUTES IN TOTAL)

373. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Lester reminded Members that information was available on the table for each Councillor to read.

374. MINUTES

i) To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 11th September 2017 as set out on pages 106 - 109 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Upcraft, Seconded by Councillor Baroni and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 11th September 2017 as set out on pages 106 - 109 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

375. ALLOTMENTS

- a) **Waiting List/update on allotments** – Mrs Collins reported that there were four people on the waiting list, two these people already have a plot but would like another quite specifically near to their existing plot. A number of plot holders received notice to quit because they had not been working their plots so the waiting list as gone down since the last update. A contractor came and cut back the willow trees and hedges along two sides of the allotments, they have done a good job and some of the plot holders have commented about how much better it is.
- b) **Members to consider and recommend to Full Council that Wallingford Town Council accept the proposal of The Allotments, West of Wallingford (Site B)**
– As guest speaker Councillor Lloyd reported that there were still negotiations with the developers going on. But there had been a verbal agreement of legal fees being paid by the developer but as yet nothing in writing.

Councillor Lloyd explained that the new allotments would be sat on top of two large water tanks and hand pump would then be used by the allotment holders to obtain the water for their plots. New gates and a small bridge would be installed to allow the tractor to gain access to the new plots the gates would open in such a way to stop people at the footpath whilst the tractor is crossing. There is a possibility that the hedge could be removed to help with the widening of the footpath, a suitable alternative (high, sturdy fence) would have to be sought first, the footpath actually belongs to Wallingford Town Council so all this is feasible.

Councillor Upcraft asked who would maintain the water tanks, Councillor Lloyd explained it would be down to the Management Company. The tanks last approx. 75 years, this is something that we would need to let the plot holders know when they take on a plot and they may need to be changed/updated in due course.

Mrs Collins asked about the possibility of a toilet this could be in the form of compost toilet or fully functioning plumbed in toilet. The Parks Foreman was concerned about who would clean the toilet or was responsible for blockages. The Mayor suggested a porta loo, Tracey Collins will look into costs for this as there is one at the Parks yard. The Parks Foreman suggested that a building of some description could be erected this could be like a meeting point for allotment holders.

Councillor Lloyd will ask the question to the developers about plumbing and pipeworks.

c) Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society - Mrs Collins reported that she had contacted WAGS (Wallingford, Allotments and Gardens Society) but had not heard anything back as yet. Mrs Collins felt WAGS and Wallingford Town Council should be working together, Mrs Collins was aware that WAGS members had gradually decreased over the years but wondered how many of the allotment holders had a WAGS membership or even knew about WAGS. Mrs Collins would like to send some information/membership form to all allotment holders with the yearly invoice on 1 April but would need WAGS to supply this information.

376. BULL CROFT PARK

To note forthcoming events on the Bullcroft:-

Family Orienteering Event – SODC have asked to hold a number of further orienteering events in the Bullcroft this year and next year, due to timing these have initially been agreed, but the dates of these are being put forward to Bullcroft Trust for their information.

377. KINECROFT

a) Pond behind Croft Road houses – Councillor Lester reported that the pond has now been filled in. The Parks Foreman confirmed this was done without any problems and the ground was put back to its natural state.

b) Michaelmas Fair - Mrs Collins expressed her concerns at how difficult it was becoming to get the correct documents from The Showman's Guild before the fair opened. It has been increasingly difficult to obtain accurate Insurance and risk assessment documents. This year was extremely time consuming and frustrating. Despite a number of warnings stating that the fair would not be able to enter Kinecroft if the documents did not arrive this did not seem to cause concern. Mrs Collins would like some support from Councillors next year, she has already informed the Showman's guild she will be starting the process early. Councillor Upcraft agreed the fair should not enter the Kinecroft without the relevant paperwork and agreed along with Councillor Lester, to support Mrs Collins in the run up to the event and also on the day in checking the documents against the rides and amusements.

b) Repair of steps – It was reported that the repair to the steps in the Kinecroft would commence on 6th November and would take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

c) Portcullis – A discussion took place regarding the need for one gate onto the Kinecroft from the Portcullis, this should be used for emergency access only.

To note forthcoming events on the Kinecroft:-

Fireworks – Councillor Lester wanted to thank the 1155 Society for a fantastic display again this year, they really did put on a wonderful event enjoyed by the whole town. Councillor Lester was however concerned about the state of the Kinecroft. The Parks Foreman reported that this was the worst he had ever seen it on the Kinecroft. There was a lot of repair work to be done and would take a long time to put right. Unfortunately the parks team have in the past had to buy new machinery/parts for the tractor where the ground has been so bad after an event that parts have broken. The Parks Foreman felt that the organisers of the events that take place on the Kinecroft don't appreciate the effect they have on the ground and the time it takes to repair and recover. Mrs Collins reported that the Town Council do take a deposits from all organisers but obviously on this occasion it was due to the sudden down pour the day before that caused the damage, there are no guidelines in place as to when the deposit should be kept. Councillor Upcraft confirmed that the guidelines should be in place and also worth reviewing the Terms and Conditions. Councillor Baroni suggested inviting a representative from all the event committees to the next meeting on 5th February to explain the Councils concerns and ask for their co-operation in keeping the grounds in good condition and minimising the impact as best we can.

Santa Run – The preparations are well underway and everything looks to go well in the Kinecroft and Bullcroft.

378. OPEN SPACES

- a) **Discuss the continued rubbish problem in the Market Place** – Councillor Kidley reported that he had received an e-mail today from the Dominion Group which confirmed that the rubbish would be collected the same day that it is reported.
- b) **Car Parking** – Defer to next meeting
- c) **Parking near drop kerbs** – Defer to next meeting

To note forthcoming events in Open Spaces:-

Christmas Event – no details have been received as yet

Christmas Carols around the tree – All preparations are in order except for obtaining an MC which Mrs Collins is working on.

379. CASTLE GARDENS

- a) **Band Concert Rota** – Mrs Collins will send a rota out to all Councillors to add their names for next year’s concerts.

- b) **Band Concert Refreshments** – Councillor Lester pointed out the wording on the agenda was incorrect. It said she wanted to put a proposal forward but actually Councillor Lester wanted to discuss the option of having alcoholic refreshments in the Castle Gardens. Councillor Lester explained that the 1155 Society had offered to lay on alcoholic refreshments that they would sell and put the profits towards the 1155 Society and other charities. Councillor Kidley explained that the deed stated that alcohol could not be sold in the Castle Gardens.

- c) **Castle Ruins** - Defer to next meeting

380. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Castle ruins – Councillor McGregor
- Car Parking – Councillor Davidson
- Parking near dropped kerbs – Councillor McGregor
- Rubbish in Market Place – Councillor Kidley
- Wilding Road and Radnor Road Play areas – Councillor Baroni
- Open Spaces, Terms and Conditions – All Councillors

Meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm