

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

of the

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee
Meeting held in the Town Hall, Wallingford
on Monday 20th January 2020

P R E S E N T

Councillors Davies, Holford, Keats-Rohan, Kidley, Lester, McGregor, Rennie
The Mayor of Wallingford, Councillor Lee Upcraft
In Attendance – Tracey Collins (Officer and Minute Taker)
Bryan Gilbey (Parks Foreman)

519. APOLOGIES

No Apologies received

520. 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.

521. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no admissions to the Public

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

There was no public participation

523. 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 21st October 2019, as set out on pages 144-148.

It was Proposed by Councillor Keats-Rohan Seconded by Councillor Davies and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 21st October 2019 as set out on pages 144 - 148 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

524. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES WERE NOTED BY COUNCILLORS

525. ALLOTMENTS

- a. **Waiting list** - The Allotment Officer stated that there were 14 people waiting for an allotment. A lot of these had come from the new developments those without gardens. Mrs Collins also gave an update that the Thames Water project was coming to a close and that plot 1 was coming together nicely. Following the last meeting Thames Water had also provided eight water butts for free, these had been taken on a first come first served basis.
- b. **Bee Keeping** – A policy for keeping bees on the allotment site was discussed, some amendments were made.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Keats-Rohan and RESOLVED: THAT the Bee Keeping policy be adopted to take immediate effect.

- c. **Water Troughs** – The option of having more water troughs was discussed, the Parks Foreman explained that although more could be put in place the more there are the less pressure there is which is also a problem. The Parks Foreman pointed out that the tenant asking for the water actually has three plots which is probably part of the problem. There are other tenants who have as far if not further to walk but because he has more than one plot to water his plots he naturally would have to do more trips. Councillors agreed it was not feasible to put in more troughs but would be worth asking if the tenant wanted to give up one of his plots as there was so many on the waiting list, this could be a standard letter to everyone.

- d. **Increase in allotment charges** – Following the Finance and Properties meeting minute number, 478/16/12/2019, it was agreed that allotment tenants should be informed that rents would be increased in 2021.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Davies and RESOLVED: THAT the allotment charges will be increased, half plot fees would remain at £20 full plot fees will increased to £40 per year this will take effect from April 2021, notice of this increase will be sent with the 2020/21 invoices to be sent 1 April 2020.

526. PARKS STAFF

The Parks Foreman confirmed that their winter schedule was on target. They have managed to reduce the summer staffing by 5 hours a week during the months April to September, we would normally employ 2 part time summer staff at 28 hours a week so this would reduce our department costs. Councillor Lester asked if Council had asked him to reduce the hours? The Parks Foreman explained he had not been asked to do this but due to H & S and monitoring workers this was the best option.

The Parks Foreman explained he had received queries as to why the Keep was closed for so long, Mrs Collins explained that it was for Health & Safety reasons, both handrails were broken and it was not decided the best course of action. It was agreed that a sign would be put on the gate to explain it was closed due to H&S.

527. KINECROFT

a. **Proposal from AV Events for open air cinema family day** - Mrs Collins explained that AV Events had run the outdoor cinema last year at the Nasio Trust fun day, this would not be for the Nasio Trust but could be for another charity picked by the Councillors if they wished. A proposal was shown to all Councillors. Councillor Upcraft confirmed that this was a great event last year but that there would need to be a charged this year, the rate for the small fairs would be £535 plus vat plus the £500 deposit. Councillors asked that that the organisers come and talk to this meeting the next meeting will be 20th April 2020. In principle yes but invite to find out more.

Councillor Rennie asked about the charges for the outside spaces so Councillor Upcraft asked that the charges be discussed at the next meeting.

The forthcoming events on the Kinecroft were noted by Members

Mark Brett, Vehicle Rally, 10th May

528. BULL CROFT

a. **Councillor McGregor, Chairman of the Bull Croft Working Party to give an update.** - Councillor McGregor explained that Heritage England had raised some concerns so the working party will be putting together some more plans so hopefully more to report next time.

No forthcoming events on the Bullcroft

529. CASTLE GARDENS

a. **Opening and Closing Times – Parks staff to monitor usage of Castle Gardens and report on findings Minute 696(b)15/4/19)** - The Parks Foreman reported that number were slightly down but this was likely due to the weather it has been very wet in recent so footfall very quiet, still believe closing times are adequate.

No forthcoming events on the Castle Gardens

530. OPEN SPACES

a. **Public Art Strategy Plan** – Councillor Lester reported that the plan had been put together by a number of individuals but wanted to thank Mrs Blacker for all her work in this document, if there are any comments then it can be revised and go to full council to be approved. Discussions took place between Councillors and Councillor Upcraft asked if these documented were the tier one priorities so would like to see tier two and three referred to so there needs to be definition. The Regal Working Party have been looking at artwork for the new Regal that's something that could be included. Councillor Upcraft asked on section 9, Commissioning a Project who would be approving the brief, would it be coming back to full council. Councillor Lester confirmed it would be discussed by the Arts Working Party and members of SODC then it would go to full council for approval. Councillor Lester agreed that brief approval would be via the committee in the first instance then full council for overall approval for each project, this would include a business plan. Business case, summarise the benefits, the upkeep as well, maintenance for the future. Another idea is to put some artwork on the round about this will help draw people into the town. A discussion took place between Councillors, a point of contact for individual projects should be advertised. Councillor Holford suggested joining together with the twin towns or putting something on the roundabouts that links in with them like Henley does. The Parks Foreman asked why we don't say on any of our signage that we are on Thames, Councillor Lester explained that it had been suggested once but was not agreed on because we did not want to be like Henley Abingdon or Goring, despite having some of the biggest rowing clubs in the country here, we are on the Thames. Councillor Lester asked that any suggestions be e-mailed to Mrs Blacker whom has worked extremely hard on this project.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Upcraft and RESOLVED: THAT the Public Art Strategy and Plan be approved once Mrs Blacker has made the small changes mentioned.

b. Shillingford Road Woods – Councillor McGregor explained that Mr Tony Sefton had found a small patch of land that would be ideal as bike track infact it was already being used by a small group of youngsters very effectively but the problem was finding out who the landowner was. There was a discussion between Councillors as to whom this land could belong to and how to find out, Councillor Holford offered to look into this as she had other resources to hand.

c. Radnor Road – Councillor Keats-Rohan updated Councillors, the Radnor Road paths need updating there have been several meetings taken place. We have obtained quotations varying from £49,562 plus vat various other provisions needed including another dog waste bin and lighting, vegetation needs to be cleared but also maintained. SODC and OCC have acknowledged climate change which hopefully Town Council will also do and respond to the need to plant and maintain trees to combat climate change. The site is owned by SODC and Councillor Levey is sympathetic and we are working on a proposal which we can bring to the next Council meeting. Councillor Upcraft asked who you are asking to pay for this work, Town Council, District Council or for Town Council to apply for S106 money? It would be via S106 which Councillor Levey is working on, Councillor Upcraft wanted it to be very clear that it's SODC land are they are responsible for the upkeep that Town Council does not become responsible for these paths in the future. Councillor Kidley explained there would be no implication to the Town Council.

The forthcoming events in the Open Spaces were noted by Members

531. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Shillingford Road woods, potential for bike track – Councillors McGregor/Holford update

Bull Croft working party update – Councillor McGregor

Radnor Road Green Space – Councillor Keats-Rohan to give an update

Charges, Open Spaces

Climate Change – Councillor Keats-Rohan

Meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces

2020.01.20. tc

Chairman