

**WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee  
Meeting held in the Town Hall, Wallingford  
on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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P R E S E N T

Councillors Hughes, Davidson, Kidley and Lester,  
In Attendance – Mrs Tracey Collins (Officer and minute taker)

**153. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** Councillor Lester is elected Chairman of the  
Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces  
Committee for the 2018/2019 Municipal  
Year.

**154. TO REVIEW THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillors noted the terms of reference for this Council – No changes

**155. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Baroni, and Upcraft and Mr Bryan  
Gilbey (Parks Foreman)

**156. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no admissions to the Public

**157. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU  
15 MINUTES IN TOTAL**

- 1) Mr Mark Brett - 1155 Society, was unable to attend.
- 2) Mr Bill Pettigrove – Showman’s Guild. Mr Pettigrove explained that he was part of the Michaelmas Fair that arrives in Wallingford at the end of each September. He explained that for many years the fair had arrived on the Sunday ready to start setting up on Monday but for the past few years they had been asked to arrive on the Monday after grass cutting as this was more convenient for the parks staff. Mr Pettigrove

explained that this was not really convenient due to traffic issues on a Monday and asked that they be allowed to arrive on Sunday afternoon. Mr Pettigrove also asked if the fees could be reduced. Over the years the fair has got smaller and they take less money each event but still have to pay the same fees and still pay for skips and advertising.

#### **158. 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) Information for each Member was available at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **159. MINUTES**

i) To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as set out on pages 233 - 238 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as set out on pages 233 - 238 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

#### **160. ALLOTMENTS**

- a) Mrs Collins reported that there were six people on the waiting list, but there had been a lot of enquiries recently so that could increase soon. Mrs Collins had received a report from a plot holder that there had been a theft from her allotment which she had reported to the police, nothing of value but wanted the Town Council to know about it. Mrs Collins put a poster on the notice board at the allotments to warn tenants to be vigilant. Mrs Collins has written to a number of tenants to ask them to tidy their plots as they have got a little overgrown she will do another inspection in week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- b) A date was set by Councillors to inspect the allotments in preparation for the trophy presentation at the WAGS show in September.

#### **161. PARKS STAFF**

- a) Mr Gilbey was unable to attend so his update will be deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Councillor Lester reported that the Parks staff had been given a uniform in the form of T-shirts and Jumpers. They all looked very smart and were happy to have the uniform.

#### **162. BULL CROFT PARK**

- a) Councillor Baroni was unable to attend so the update on the Bullcroft Working Party will be deferred to the next meeting.
- b) A report has been received that an area of footpath at the St Georges Road entrance has lifted, this is due to the growth of the tree roots. Councillors agreed to ask the Bullcroft Trust to look into this and take action as necessary.
- c) The new defibrillators have been installed at the Bullcroft and the Boathouse. Councillors would like to thank everyone involved including Wheelers Electrical Contractors, Susan from Mary Handy Hair and Beauty and County Councillor Lynda Atkins.

#### **To note forthcoming events on the Bullcroft:-**

2<sup>nd</sup> December – Style Acre, Santa Run

#### **163. KINECROFT**

- a) **Look at ways to prevent damage to the Kinecroft during events**  
It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as Mr Gilbey and Mr Brett were unable to attend.
- b) **Michaelmas Fair**  
Councillors discussed Mr Pettigrove's request to pull on to the Kinecroft on Sunday rather than Monday and agreed this would be ok after 3pm for 2018. There was a discussion about reducing the fees for the fair but Councillors felt they should be looking at all events and charges, Mrs Collins confirmed that the fair would have to pay the fees for this year as this had already been budgeted for so Councillors decided to defer to the next meeting when a summary of charges can be obtained.

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Lester and

#### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Michaelmas Fair should be allowed to pull on to the Kinecroft on Sunday rather than Monday for 2018 only.

### **To note forthcoming events on the Kinecroft:-**

31<sup>st</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Bunkfest  
27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September, Michaelmas Fair  
3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1155 - Annual Fireworks event  
2<sup>nd</sup> December, Style Acre – Santa Run

### **164. OPEN SPACES**

#### **a) Compliments received about the flower displays**

Councillor Lester was pleased to pass on praise and thanks to the Parks staff for their wonderful flower displays again this year, there have been a number of compliments received. Councillor Hughes was concerned that the tractor mounts the path for periods of time especially outside Waitrose. Mrs Collins commented that the parks staff come in early to water during the summer months specifically so that they avoid as much traffic and pedestrians as possible. The parks staff adhere to all Health and Safety conditions so not to endanger themselves or others.

#### **b) Request to have a memorial plaque on a Market Place bench**

This request was discussed, Councillors noted that there were no memorial plaques on the benches on the Market Place and it would be nice to keep them clean of plaques. Mrs Collins informed Councillors that relatives normally ask for a bench with a plaque these are placed either at the Riverside or in the Castle Gardens, these benches can be costly (approx £1,800) because they are personalised and of a very heavy material. Councillors were concerned as to who would pay for this?

#### **c) Rest Garden in New Road, area suggested for new sculpture**

Councillors discussed the possibility of a sculpture in this area and agreed that the Parks staff continue to tidy it as needed and trim back any untidy bushes.

#### **d) Wilding Road and Radnor Road Play Areas**

This item was deferred as Councillor Baroni was unable to attend.

#### **e) Car Parking**

Councillor Davidson explained that she had wanted to look into issues with the parking and also the crossings in Wallingford, she had not got very far due to the problems with decriminalisation. Councillor Kidley stated he had also been trying to look into this but was an ongoing process.

#### **f) Tree Surveys**

Mrs Collins reported that she and the parks foreman were due to meet four Arboriculturists in the next week to discuss the surveys needed.

**g) Bunting**

Councillor Lester wanted to thank the W.I for all their hard work in getting the bunting put together, the town looks lovely. Councillor Lester asked that another £400 be put in the budget for some more bunting for next year to finish off down St Marys Street.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and

**RECOMMEND:**

**THAT** £400 per put in next year's budget for more bunting.

**To note forthcoming events in Open Spaces –**

31<sup>st</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Bunkfest

11<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance

12<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Carols around the tree.

**165. CASTLE GARDENS**

**To note forthcoming events in Castle Gardens –**

12<sup>th</sup> August, Band Concert, RAF 100 Years Event.

Goring and Streatley Concert Band,

**166. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Parks Foreman report

Bullcroft Working Party – Councillor Baroni

Car Parking – Councillor Davidson

Limit damage to Kinecroft – Mr Gilbey/Mr Brett

Charges/agreements for use of open spaces – all Councillors

**Meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm**