

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

**Virtual TEAMS meeting of Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces on Monday
14th September 2020 at 7p.m**

P R E S E N T

Councillors Dolton, Holford, Keats-Rohan, Kidley, Lester,
The Mayor of Wallingford, Councillor Lee Upcraft
In Attendance – Tracey Collins (Officer and Minute Taker)
Mr Richard Prunier (Guest)

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

Councillor Kidley reminded attendees of the protocol for the meeting.

265. APOLOGIES

Councillor Sinkinson and Mr Bryan Gilbey

266. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no admissions to the Public

267. 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.

268. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU 15 MINUTES IN TOTAL)

Christmas Shopping Event. Mr Jackson explained that many of the shops in Wallingford want to continue the tradition of the event which would be on Sunday 6th December. They would like to have stall on the Market Place and request permission to do so. Due to Covid rules there would be no fireworks,

donkeys, singing nor fair-rides. Councillor Kidley explained that this was not an item on the Agenda and so would be discussed at the Full Council Meeting on 21st September 2020.

269. VARIANCE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no variance of order of business.

270. 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 13th July 2020, as set out on pages 60-66 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester and Seconded by Councillor Upcraft and

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 13th July 2020 as set out on pages 60 - 66 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

271. ALLOTMENTS

(i) The Allotment Officer stated that there were 22 people waiting for an allotment. The Parks Foreman had confirmed that the planned works at the allotments including the filling of potholes and repairing the hole in the hedge had been delayed but would be completed by Christmas.

(ii) Councillor Kidley gave a brief update on the new allotments on Site B which is still in the hands of the Solicitors.

272. PARKS STAFF

(i) Report from the Parks Foreman was emailed and read out to Councillors. It was clear that there were still issues being understaffed. This should be discussed further and a way forward found at the next Personnel meeting to be held on 15th February 2021

(ii) Thank you – A number of thank you/compliments had been received into the office and via the Town Information Centre with regard to the flower displays in Wallingford this year, this had been passed on to the parks department.

273. KINECROFT

i) **Flooding** - Councillor Keats-Rohan gave an update and explained that there was no run off or drainage area but was unsure if this was the responsibility of the landowner or OCC, it had been a slow process.

No forthcoming events

274. BULL CROFT

i). **Play Area Closed** - Councillor Kidley updated Councillors, work was continuing to bring the play areas in line with H&S guidelines, moss remover had been used and was working well. The next job was to lift clean and replace the rubber matting. Volunteers would be required for this job, office staff have offered and would like a few Councillors to attend. A number of essential components have been ordered but there is a long wait time, as soon as everything is ready, the area will be opened.

No forthcoming events

275. CASTLE GARDENS

i). **Request to open gate to allow more access** - Councillor Lester had been asked if the side gate from Castle Lane could be opened to allow access from the bridge area into the Castle Gardens. It was agreed that the area would be inspected and if viable would be opened to allow visitors access.

To note, forthcoming events:-

National Film and Television School, 30th September to 2nd October 2020

276. OPEN SPACES

i) Update from Richard Prunier on plans for Young Traders Market and Filming in Castle Gardens.

Mr Prunier explained idea behind the Young Traders Market to be held on Friday 18th, this is intended to be a regular occurrence not a one off event. The road closure has been supported in principle due to it being a regular market and allowing for all covid regulations to be put in place.

Councillor Upcraft asked if the stall holders were being charged, the answer is not this time but would be for subsequent markets. The only charge would be a small one passed on to the traders to cover public liability which the NMTF have allowed us to have an umbrella cover for these new starters. All traders have completed a booking form, provided a risk assessment and insurance cover, all this is in place already.

Mr Prunier also explained that a film company requested the use of the Castle Gardens to make a short film. This does not mean hundreds of people attending the gardens nor will it be closed to the public.

ii) Christmas – Tree has been ordered, switch on will be determined nearer the time, lights being sourced.

Councillors informed all planned as usual. The lights switch on will be determined nearer the time.

iii) Councillor Holford to give an update on the land ownership of Shillingford Road woods – Minute 530(b)20/01/2020 refers.

Councillor Holford confirmed that this was now at a dead end. Apart from the fact there is no record of land ownership, there is also the question why we are doing this? There was an idea for a bike park but who would fund/run/maintain it. It would also appear that the area actually comes under Brightwell Parish not Wallingford.

Councillor Lester would like to thank Councillor Holford for all her efforts on this piece of work

It was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and RECOMMENDED: THAT this item is now closed.

iv) Wallingford 1155, Litter Pick, 20th September 2020 – Information for Councillors sent by email. Councillor Upcraft stated that if anybody wanted to be involved they should contact Mark Brett direct.

v) Road humps – A request has been received to ask for support for road humps in St Nicholas Road.

Councillor Upcraft suggested contacting County Councillor Pete Sudbury in the first instance and raising awareness locally, maybe even with the school. Councillor Keats-Rohan explained she had spoken to Councillor Sudbury on this matter and he would look into the matter.

To note, forthcoming events -

Young Traders Market Friday 18th September 5.30-8.30pm

277. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Upcraft - Allotments, to discuss a plan for those that have multiple plots

Councillor Lester – Market Place being used as a Scooter park by motor vehicles especially on a Sunday

Richard Prunier – The use of Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

Meeting closed at approximately 7.50pm

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces

2020.09.14. tc

Chairman