

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** which was held on **Monday, 20th November 2017** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 8.55 pm

PRESENT	Councillor L. Farrell	Chairman
	Councillor M. Hall	Town Mayor
	Councillor B. Castle	
	Councillor A. Ross	
	Councillor P. Cairns	
	Councillor M. Cooper	
	Councillor H. Forbes	
	Councillor S. Price	
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs. S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator
	Mr N. Weatherly	Grounds Manager
	Councillor G. Loosmore	Observing
	Councillor S. Dobson	Unitary Councillor – East Ward
	Plus 1 member of the public	

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Marian Hannaford-Dobson, resident, Back Lane – asked whether Members had visited the play area at Mildenhall and if so whether they considered that a multi-age exercise play area that embraces the whole family would be a desirable and welcome addition to the facilities offered to Marlborough’s residents. The **Chairman** thanked **Mrs Hannaford-Dobson** – an update on Cooper’s Meadow would be discussed at agenda at item 7.

392/17 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Wilson.

393/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations.

394/17 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The **Chairman** and the Town Mayor would be attending a meeting with staff and prefects at St John’s Academy on 29th November to discuss a range of issues including use of our open spaces. This was an ongoing arrangement with the school and followed up on a meeting held there last year.

The **Chairman** congratulated Mr Nigel Weatherly on his appointment as Grounds Manager.

395/17

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 30th October 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

396/17

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and she gave a verbal update about land adjacent to the River Kennet at Churchill Court.

397/17

GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report. The **Grounds Manager** answered questions about the new tractor/flail arm and the location for a new bench in Cooper's Meadow.

398/17

COOPER'S MEADOW

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and new Members were brought up to date on work carried out during the previous Council, including a slide show of initial proposals. Matters discussed included:

- That the project was a project listed in the Council's adopted Action Plan
- That priority was given in the previous year to re-opening the George Lane toilets and taking on and refurbishing the Community & Youth Centre
- Whether to set up a Working Party to take the project forward
- Whether to conduct more consultation
- Whether to extend the footprint of the current play area
- Budget constraints: the project met criteria for a S106 contribution of £23,894.47 linked to a development at Ailesbury Court but further funding would be needed. Possibilities included previous S106 project savings of £4,441.87 as well as external grant funding and future CIL money
- Issues around surfacing and foundations due to it being sited in a water meadow
- The historical and environmental importance of water meadows and their role in helping reduce the risk of flooding

RESOLVED: to establish a Working Party to take the project forward which would be open to all members of the A&OS Committee

399/17

STONEBRIDGE MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee meeting of 26th October 2017 and that a meeting would be held on 18th January 2018 to review the Management Plan to which members of the public would be welcome to attend.

400/17

THE COMMON

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered requests to introduce a Marlborough Parkrun to The Common as well as a request to donate a Memorial Tree in 2018.

Parkrun

There was general support to introduce a Marlborough Parkrun. There was some discussion about routes and possible impact on the surface, which the Grounds Manager and his team were happy to advise on and monitor.

RESOLVED: (i) to agree to the proposal for a Marlborough Parkrun subject to the agreement of other users of The Common and that a Common Users Group meeting is called to discuss the issue with a presentation from Parkrun UK

RESOLVED: (ii) that advice from the Grounds Manager and Senior Groundsman is sought as to the best parkrun route

Cllr. & Mrs Dobson left the meeting

Memorial Tree

Gifford's Circus had asked whether it could donate a native tree, to be planted after their performance in 2018. This was something they hoped may continue on an annual basis. Members preferred, and the Grounds Manager recommended, that this should be an oak tree and that its siting should fit with the current plan to replace diseased trees along Frees Avenue. The Grounds Manager agreed to provide an update of the tree replacement plan.

RESOLVED: (iii) to welcome and accept the Gifford Circus offer to donate a memorial oak tree

401/17

WW1 COMMEMORTION – TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered the suggestion from the Tennis Club to plant commemorative trees on land adjacent to the new Tennis Courts at the Common. This would be part of a Wiltshire Council project to plant 10,000 trees across the county to reflect the number of soldiers from Wiltshire who fell during the First World War. The discussion included:

- The proposed location at the site of the new tennis club
- That it was important to provide some sort of information board or plaque so that future generations would know the significance of the plantation
- That the number of trees proposed for Marlborough was a good fit for the number of lives lost from the town and Old Marlburians and College staff
- Whether to link this initiative to World War 1 Centenary commemorations being planned at Marlborough College
- That it was important that there should always be public access to the trees
- That further discussions would need to take place with the Tennis Club and the Community Engagement Manager
- Whether to formally name the proposed copse/plantation, and whether Wiltshire Council had any recommendations on this

RESOLVED: that the Tennis Club site was agreed for the planting of commemorative trees

402/17

WYE GARDENS

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered a request about a change in maintenance responsibilities.

RESOLVED: that the request about a change in maintenance responsibilities should be declined at this point in time

403/17

NEW STORAGE FACILITY AT THE WORKSHOP

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report and considered quotes for the installation of a temporary building. Quotations for a permanent structure were very high, and the Grounds Manager was instead seeking costs for an alternative temporary building. Members agreed that it was sensible to go ahead with work in-house to level the ground and provide hard standing which would provide immediate storage space, improve the look of the area as well as reduce the installation costs should a more permanent structure be agreed in the future. Further quotes could be presented to Full Council for agreement.

RESOLVED: that an area of land be levelled and a type one stone surface be installed

404/17

CEMETERIES

RESOLVED: (i) Members noted recent Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial issued

RESOLVED: (ii) Members noted approved memorials and inscriptions

Memorial Bench

Members considered a request for a memorial bench.

RESOLVED: (iii) that the request for a new memorial bench was granted

Yew Hedge

Members considered a request which had been received asking to cut back the yew hedge at the rear of the Victorian Cemetery (Leaze Road).

RESOLVED: (iv) to proceed with works to the yew hedge and accept a quotation from J Turner Tree & Garden Services at the cost of £4,800

405/17

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Members noted the minutes of the Association's most recent meeting, the Town Clerk's report and a recommendation about a meeting to discuss outstanding issue.

RESOLVED: to revisit the management of all allotment sites following a meeting with the Allotment Association to take place on 6th December 2017

406/17

MARLBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and an invitation for a tour of the Golf Club.

RESOLVED: to thank Marlborough Golf Club and accept their invitation for a tour of the facility on Saturday, 13th January which would also include a visit to the Tennis Club site

407/17

OPEN SPACES CHARGES

Members considered fees for the use of open spaces in 2017/18.

RESOLVED: that the proposed charges for 2017/18 are agreed and that hire of the Recreation Ground be added to the

408/17

A&OS COMMITTEE – BUDGET SETTING 2018/19

Members noted the Town Clerk’s report and considered Committee budget to recommend to Finance & Policy Committee for 2018/19. This item had been deferred from the meeting of 30th October to enable further estimates to be obtained for health and safety related work at the Victorian Cemetery and new equipment. Staffing estimates would be dealt with by the Staffing Sub Committee

RESOLVED: to recommend the A&OS budget to the Finance & Policy Committee

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed

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Chairman

Date