

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL  
AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>  
July 2017 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.50pm

---

<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor L. Farrell	Chairman
	Councillor M. Hall	Town Mayor
	Councillor B. Castle	
	Councillor A. Ross	
	Councillor P. Cairns	
	Councillor M. Cooper	
	Councillor S. Price	
Councillor A. Wilson		
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs S Fry	Office Manager
	Mr N Weatherly	Acting Grounds Manager
	Councillor G Loosmore	Observing
	Plus 3 members of the public	

---

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Mr. R. Beale** – Marlborough in Bloom (MiB) would like to ensure the continuing support and assistance of Marlborough Town Council. Will members agree to the Town Council Grounds Team assisting by watering the plants?

**The Chairman** – congratulated MiB and all those involved in the work towards Judging Day and stated that she felt that the best way forward was to add partnership working with MiB as an agenda item for the next A&OS meeting when plans for working together over the next year could be discussed in greater detail.

**Cllr Cairns** – felt that it would be beneficial if MiB put in place a plan for the lead up to next year's competition

**158/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
An apology for absence was received from Councillor H Forbes

**159/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Cllr A Wilson – agenda item 11 – Bench to mark the centenary of the Lions Club – non-pecuniary

**160/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
The Chairman congratulated all those involved in the lead up to South West in Bloom competition for all their hard work and wished MiB the best of luck for the results which would be announced at an awards ceremony on 5<sup>th</sup> October in Torquay.

161/17

### MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting held Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

162/17

### TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

The Town Clerk updated members on the following –

**Min No. 638/15 – Town Mill Machinery** would be moved within the next month to the Rope Works

**Min No. 65/17 – Dog Fouling Campaign** the initial design for the poster would be taken to the Full Town Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor Ross requested that the proposals for play area at Cooper's Meadow be placed on a future agenda as he felt that it was important to preserve the integrity of this area.

163/17

### GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

The Acting Grounds Manager gave a verbal update –

- Good progress was being made in all areas
- The bedding plants were doing well with winter bedding to be ordered in the next 2 weeks
- The play areas were being well used
- The Huscavana mower had now been replaced

#### Sites update

Recreation Ground – goal mouth repairs would begin shortly

St. Mary's Churchyard – in good condition and many positive comments had been received from members of the public

The Green – the skirting around the Limes had been trimmed

Cemetery – a number of burials/interments during the last month with some problems in 'H' section including sinking graves which had been addressed

Old Victorian Cemetery – the nettles were being treated

Cooper's Meadow – the benches needed attention due to acts of vandalism

Jubilee Field – work is ongoing to control the nettles

Wye House Gardens – in good condition and many positive comments having been received

Elcot Village Green – the trees had been watered

Stonebridge Meadow – regular liaison with the ARK Project Officer. Positive comments about the mowing of paths

**Councillor Ross** – passed on his congratulations to N. Weatherly (Acting Grounds Manager) and the Grounds Team for their hard work.

It was agreed that the post and chains and yews at the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Memorial would benefit from some refurbishment works.

The wooden banner frame on The Common would be removed with comments that this provided an opportunity to the Town Council to provide advertising space.

**Councillor Loosmore** - asked that Wiltshire Council be contacted regarding the poor state of the corner of the Green on the Herd Street/St. Martin's junction. The Town Clerk agreed to discuss this with Wiltshire Council.

164/17

#### **STONEBRIDGE MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Councillor Castle gave a verbal update about the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July:

- The feedback about the meadow continued to be positive
- 3 quotations were being sought for a Bat Survey to be carried out at a shared cost between ARK and MTC
- There would be cutting back of grass and reeds by the public footpath at the end of September
- On 9<sup>th</sup> September, there would be a community event, The Big Picnic, to promote the meadow. All Councillors were encouraged to attend
- A leaflet/guide was to be published for those people using and exploring the meadow
- As agreed at a previous A&OS meeting, the public would be invited to a meeting to review the Management Plan in the autumn (September or October). ARK would make a presentation
- All livestock at the meadow was thriving
- A local farmer had offered to remove and store the 5 bar gate that had been left in the meadow and could be considered a health and safety hazard
- Minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July would be published later in the month.

165/17

#### **CHURCHILL COURT**

Members noted the Town Clerk's report

**RESOLVED:** that a meeting is arranged with property managers, First Port and the current owners of Churchill Court on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to re-visit and resolve riverside ownership issues and ongoing concerns around overhanging trees. Cllrs M. Hall, A Ross, L Farrell, B Castle and the Town Clerk to attend.

166/17

#### **OPENING OF PATH AT RIVER OG**

Members considered an official opening of the path running alongside land at Tin Pit owned by the Town Council and down to the River Og where ARK had completed a habitat restoration project.

**RESOLVED:** the following be established prior to the official opening of the path –

- (i) Access to the river be discussed with ARK
- (ii) A name for the path be considered
- (iii) Consideration be given to sign posting
- (iv) Budget for the installation of an interpretation board

167/17

**CEMETERIES**

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

**RESOLVED:** (ii) Members noted recently approved memorials and inscriptions

168/17

**BENCH TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE LIONS CLUB**

Members considered a request from the Lions Club for a bench on Town Council-owned land as part of its centenary celebrations and considered a small number of potential sites

**RESOLVED:** that the bench be sited along the side of the path at Cooper's Meadow and that the Lions Club be thanked for providing it

The provision of picnic benches for the area behind the current play area to be discussed at a future meeting.

169/17

**MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM**

Members received a verbal report from the Town Mayor about MiB's entry into South West in Bloom –

- All went well on judging day and MiB were congratulated on its entry to the competition
- The awards presentation would take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> October when it was hoped that the town and all It's Your Neighbourhood entrants would do well
- The Grounds Team and office staff were thanked for their hard work
- The judges were clearly impressed with the wide range of activities that take place in a small town.

170/17

**ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

Members received a verbal update from Councillor Castle following the meeting of the Allotment Association on 5<sup>th</sup> July –

- The Association was thriving and there were are representatives from all allotment sites on the committee
- There a request for water supplies at the Stonebridge and St John's sites
- The issue of holding bonfires on allotment sites had been discussed. There was no reference to bonfires in the agreement forbidding this. However, allotment holders should be encouraged to recycle rather than burn rubbish.

171/17

**TOWN TOUR**

**RESOLVED:** that the following dates be agreed for a tour of Town Council owned land, property and open spaces –

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September – 6pm

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – 6pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – 6pm

The tour to include the site for the building of the new tennis courts at The Common.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman