

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

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** which was held on **Monday, 30 April 2018** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.50pm

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	
	Councillor A. Wilson	

ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

683/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

684/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

685/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This was **Cllr. Farrell's** last Amenities & Open Spaces Committee as Chairman. The past year had been a pleasure and she thanked the Members for their support.

686/17 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held Monday, 12 March 2018, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

687/17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report. The **Town Clerk** answered questions about the Skate Park.

688/17 GROUND MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Ground Manager's report.

689/17 COOPER'S MEADOW PLAY AREA

Members noted the minutes of the Working Party and received a verbal update from **Cllr. Cooper**. Key points discussed included:

- It would be important to keep the people of Marlborough informed as the project progressed
- The need to include clear signage and whether to include an information board to explain the history of the Meadow
- The project presented an opportunity to meet the needs of all residents of Marlborough – improving the play area and providing more amenity seating while

retaining the grazing area for sheep

RESOLVED: (i) that the Terms of Reference for the Cooper's Meadow Working Party were agreed

RESOLVED: (ii) to delegate to the Town Clerk to identify a suitable Project Co-ordinator/Manager and build up an initial proposal to submit to Full Council on 21 May 2018

690/17

MARLBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB (MTFC)

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered quotes for a replacement fence and a plan for a possible extension to the football ground.

Fence

Members noted that MTFC had generously offered to contribute towards the cost.

RESOLVED: (i) to delegate to the Town Clerk to move ahead with the expenditure for the removal and replacement of the fence at the Football Club

Possible Extension to Football Club

The Town Clerk had requested that a plan for a possible extension be provided but this was not yet available. An annotated photograph had been received from MTFC but was not detailed enough to make any decision. The discussion included:

- The area being requested appeared very small, and would be restricted to between the current boundary and south of the existing footpath bordering the scrub area
- Whether some give and take of land could be achieved depending on the dimensions of the additional land to be designated for a small/training pitch
- More precise plans would be required
- The special nature of Stonebridge Meadow in terms of wildlife habitat
- The joint ownership of the land (shared between Marlborough Town Council and Action for the River Kennet) and the need for the request to be considered by the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee
- That a much larger area had been proposed in the past, which had generated a strength of feeling about the impact it might have on ongoing conservation work. The proposal had been abandoned
- Acknowledgement of relationship difficulties in the past but, that current Members were and had always been very supportive of ARK
- That the Town Council had to balance the needs of all residents of the town
- There was a shortage of football sites across the whole town and that youth and ladies teams were growing in number
- Whether there were any rare species in the area in question
- Whether an ecological survey of this specific area had been conducted

RESOLVED: (i) that a detailed block plan is drawn up to be considered by the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee

RESOLVED: (ii) to commission an independent ecological survey of the proposed area

691/17

DOG FOULING

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and discussed the current poster campaign, considering whether other actions were required. Members discussed:

- That dog fouling was still a problem, and in particular for users of sports pitches at the Recreation Ground and on The Common

- Whether to use spray paint to highlight problem areas
- Whether the Area Board could be approached to fund a warden to be shared with other towns
- Whether there were any success stories in other towns that could be shared
- Whether to give wide publicity to any action taken against irresponsible owners
- Whether simpler promotional materials could be prepared highlighting the key issues with dog fouling

RESOLVED: to delegate to the Town Clerk to investigate legislation around the issuing of fines at local council level and actions already put in place by other town and parish councils

692/17

THE COMMON

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk, feedback from the Common Users Group about a proposed Parkrun and considered a request to hold weekly boot sales.

RESOLVED: (i) that the request to hold a weekly Parkrun on The Common was agreed and that the hard standing area be used for parking on the proviso that organisers have a traffic management plan in place and marshalling

RESOLVED: (ii) to ask for more information before agreeing to the request for commercially run car boot sales

693/17

CEMETERIES

RESOLVED: (i) that recent Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial were noted

RESOLVED: (ii) that approved memorials and inscriptions were noted

Victorian Cemetery

Members considered a request from the Friends of the Old Victorian Cemetery about additional planting at the Old Cemetery. They acknowledged the work the group had done to create such a beautiful environment but, an approach from another interested group about the location of planting should also be considered. It would be important to involve the Friends group in the upcoming visit by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and its production of a Management Plan for the site

RESOLVED: (iii) to wait for the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Plan before agreeing to further planting

694/17

LICENCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROPERTY ADJACENT TO TOWN-COUNCIL OWNED LAND

RESOLVED: that a letter be issued to the owner of a neighbouring property allowing for a picket style fence on the proviso that it must be removed should the Town Council, in the future, need to access Coopers Meadow from George Lane

695/17

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Cllrs. Castle and Cooper had attended a recent Allotment Association AGM and gave a verbal update to Members. Points arising at the meeting included:

- The Association had requested that the minutes of the AGM be added to the Town Council's website
- A new Committee had been elected at the meeting
- Whether to continue with the present arrangement, or create three separate user groups for each allotment site
- Until a Chairman was elected and/or user groups were decided upon, whether administration should revert back to the Town Council

- It was important to have an agreed relationship defined setting out clear responsibilities for all parties

696/17

MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM (MiB)

The South West in Bloom competition Judging Day had been set for Tuesday, 10 July 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman