

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

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 8.25 pm

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor L. Farrell Councillor M. Hall Councillor B. Castle Councillor A. Ross Councillor P. Cairns Councillor M. Cooper Councillor H. Forbes Councillor S. Price	Chairman Town Mayor
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Mr N. Weatherly Plus 5 members of the public	Town Clerk Administrator Acting Grounds Manager

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Mrs Compton, resident, Kennet Place** – applauded the Town Council’s desire to improve the play area at Cooper’s Meadow but asked, when considering changes and improvements to amenity areas, whether these could be placed in open areas in good public view and not near the back leat. This was a popular meeting place for young people, regularly used during the evening and into the early hours and often left littered. Mrs Compton was concerned that adding extra facilities here might encourage more noise, particularly late at night, which would have an impact on local residents.

**331/17                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
There were no apologies.

**332/17                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**333/17                    CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
The Chairman announced that as there were members of the public present with interests in agenda items 8 (Jubilee Field, Manton) and 9 (Cooper’s Meadow) that these items would be brought forward on the agenda

The Chairman thanked all those who attended the tour of our open spaces in September. This was a really useful experience especially for new Councillors.

Although it had been mentioned already at other meetings, the Chairman congratulated Marlborough in Bloom on their gold award and the Its Your Neighbourhood groups for all their awards. Also thanks went to the Grounds Team for all their work towards this too.

**334/17                    MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting held Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

335/17

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

336/17

### **JUBILEE FIELD, MANTON**

Members considered a proposal from the Manton Residents' Association for improvements to the riverbank at Jubilee Field, Manton, along with a request by local young people for improved facilities at the site. **The Chairman** was delighted that young people in Manton were taking an interest in the recreational facilities at Jubilee Field the Recreation Ground and they would be invited to join the Youth Council.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that Marlborough Town Council welcomes and agrees that the Manton Residents' Association proposal for the Jubilee Field River Bank Project go forward and that the work for the first phase is outsourced to contractors (all relevant public liability and risk assessments must be in place)

**RESOLVED:** (ii) that the Grounds Team clears nettles and overhanging branches at the site in February 2018

**RESOLVED:** (iii) that design for the interpretation boards is cleared via the A&OS Committee

**RESOLVED:** (iv) that an informal meeting is arranged with the young people in Manton who have contacted the Town Council to find out more about their ideas for better amenities.

337/17

### **COOPER'S MEADOW**

Members considered how to take forward the amenity area project. Matters discussed included:

- General support for more seating, including potential for 'in memorium' seating (a seat donated by The Lions Club was due to be installed soon)
- Different types/appearances of picnic benches
- Whether improvements could be incorporated into the existing play area without any need to move fences
- Whether more use could be made of the open land immediately adjacent to the play area, and between the play area and the mill pool
- That Action for the River Kennet (ARK) welcomed use by the community and would be happy to see well designed additions to its amenity value and felt comfortable with a slight reduction in the grazing area but asked that conservation work already undertaken was respected
- A belief that the meadow was big enough to accommodate all requirements – conservation, amenity and play areas
- That having sheep grazing so close to the town centre was to be welcomed, and provided great educational value often being a first encounter with farm animals for very young children
- Some support for the matter raised in public question time about a need to 'open up' the back area and much of this work was already planned by the Acting Grounds Manager
- It would be difficult to agree on next steps without formal plans being available for discussion

**RESOLVED:** (i) to draw up costed plans showing options for adding seating/picnic benches in the amenity

**RESOLVED:** (ii) to draw up costed plans showing options to replace the play equipment

**RESOLVED:** (iii) Members noted that agreement had been given to grass the access way in front of the house at 57A George Lane in line with an associated licence and that any corresponding legal variation to the document would be followed through

*The members of the public left the meeting*

**338/17**

#### **GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Mr Weatherly** summarised the content of his report and answer questions about the condition of machinery and play equipment, planting schemes planned for High Street floral displays in 2018 and grave digging.

**339/17**

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

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017. **Cllr. Castle** gave a verbal update of the most recent meeting, held 26<sup>th</sup> October:

- It had been agreed that a bat survey was not required at the present time
- The beehives were to be removed from the Meadow
- The gate was to be moved very soon
- A budget line of £1,000 was recommended for 2018/19 to cover emergency works, e.g. removal of fallen trees

It had been a very productive meeting and the minutes would be available before the next A&OS Committee Meeting.

**340/17**

#### **THE COMMON**

Members considered a request by BT Openreach to install new fibre cabling at the edge of The Common. The work would take approximately 2 days with minimal disruption and any damage made good. Members were supportive that this work would mean fast broadband would be available to communities in the Rockley area.

**RESOLVED:** that Openreach be permitted to lay fibre cabling on the edge of The Common and it was delegated to the Town Clerk to follow up with the Wayleave document

**341/17**

#### **PRIORY GARDENS**

Members considered a request to improve access for the disabled at the Figgins Lane entrance to Priory Gardens, where a step was proving difficult for some visitors using mobility aids.

**RESOLVED:** that the Acting Grounds Manager looks into resolving the problem in-house.

**342/17**

#### **WYE GARDENS**

Members noted a report by the Acting Grounds Manager and considered a request about a change of maintenance responsibilities for part of the garden received from the Non-Resident Estate Manager for Wye House.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk be delegated to investigate clauses in the current lease agreement for the next A&OS Committee meeting

**343/17**

#### **NEW STORAGE FACILITY AT THE WORKSHOP**

Members considered a recommendation from the Property Committee about a new storage facility at the Workshop, and noted that quotes were currently being sought for the preferred building type. Firm costs would be brought to the next A&OS Committee meeting.

344/17

### **CEMETERIES**

**RESOLVED:** (i) Members noted the Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial that had been issued

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

**RESOLVED:** (iii) Members noted that a possible site was being investigated for an extension to the Cemetery, and this would be incorporated into the overall 'call for sites' to be conducted for the Neighbourhood Plan. One option was to extend the current cemetery into the adjacent land (next to the cemetery approach road)

#### Victorian Cemetery

Members noted a recent meeting between the Town Clerk, Acting Grounds Manager and Mrs Margaret Rose about the work of the Friends of the Old Cemetery and a number of requests. The work of the voluntary group at the Cemetery was applauded, along with its recognition in the Its Your Neighbourhood category of South West in Bloom. The status of the group, e.g. whether it was properly constituted, was questioned.

**RESOLVED:** (iv) that two notices be purchased asking for dogs to be kept on leads

**RESOLVED:** (v) that the Friends Group be asked to provide quotations (and possible sponsorship options) for a plaque/sign and noticeboard

**RESOLVED:** (vi) that Members noted the request for a proportion of the site to be designated as a Wildlife Conservation Area but would require further information before a decision could be taken

**RESOLVED:** (vii) that quotes should be obtained for the cutting of the yew hedge to the west boundary for the next A&OS meeting for budget setting purposes

**RESOLVED:** (viii) that a quote be obtained for the cost of H&S advice and training from the ICCM for the next A&OS meeting for budget setting purposes

345/17

### **DOG FOULING POSTER CAMPAIGN**

**RESOLVED:** that the final version of the campaign poster was agreed and to delegate to the Town Clerk and Acting Grounds Manager to liaise with Drove Vets to arrange for stickers and posters to be printed and erected in Town Council-owned spaces

346/17

### **MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM (MiB)**

Members considered future partnership working with MiB and a recommendation from the Property Committee about providing a base for MiB.

**RESOLVED:** (i) to set up a joint Working Party

**RESOLVED:** (ii) that the town's entry to MiB is coordinated by MTC (Grounds Manager) and the IYNs by MiB

**RESOLVED:** (iii) that as recommended by the Property Committee, a permanent base be sought for MiB volunteers on a trial basis

348/17

**A&OS COMMITTEE – BUDGET SETTING 2018/19**

Members considered budget figures for 2018/19. The Acting Grounds Manager recommended some equipment needs and the costs for these will be submitted to the next A&OS Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to obtain quotations for new machinery and investigate possible sale of tractor

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

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