

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

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on Monday,
5th June 2017 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 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	
	Councillor A. Wilson	
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator
	Councillor G. Loosmore	Observing
	Mr R. Mills	Gazette & Herald
	Plus 2 members of the public	

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms L. Long, Manton – The Manton Residents' Association had been working over a couple of years on the riverbank in The Jubilee Field to improve children's safety and the environment and were seeking support from the Town Council. They had obtained a grant of £2,600 from the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainability Development Fund and begun to match the amount through fundraising and would like to arrange a site visit to explore opportunities to work with the Council. **The Chairman** confirmed that a site visit would be scheduled to the Jubilee Field soon when it would be possible to discuss working with the Residents' Association.

56/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Mr Nigel Weatherly, the Acting Grounds Manager, was unable to attend.

57/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

58/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Chairman welcomed Members to the first meeting of the A&OS Committee, extended especially to new Councillors.

All were welcome to attend, if possible, the minute's silence on the Town Hall steps on Tuesday, 6th June at 11am to mark the town's sympathy for those who had died and were injured in the terror attack in London on Saturday, 3rd June 2016.

The South West in Bloom judging day was Thursday, 13th July and Marlborough in Bloom was working hard towards this and were in need of more volunteers to help clean up the town in readiness for it. The Chairman wished the group every success with their entry.

Ms. Long left the meeting

59/17

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

60/17

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report. The Chairman and Town Clerk had met with Charlotte Hitchmough, Director, Action for the River Kennet (ARK) to discuss expanding the amenity area at Cooper's Meadow (Min. 497/16). This would be an item for discussion with Councillors at the Projects Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, 6th June. It was important too to note the partnership working at Stonebridge Meadow (Min. 498/16).

Cllr. Castle referred to Min. 637/16 – Churchill Court – and provided new Members with some background about riverside ownership issues. It was agreed to add an agenda item to the next A&OS meeting on 17th July in order to explore options to resolve these issues.

The Town Clerk also answered questions about Priory Gardens (Mins. 080/16, 506/16) and ongoing work towards replacement trees on The Common at Frees Avenue.

61/17

GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Acting Grounds Manager's report.

RESOLVED: (i) that white line marking in Town Council owned car parks should be undertaken (Recreation Ground, Town Council offices and (after 12th June), Marlborough Youth and Community Centre)

RESOLVED: (ii) that regular mole inspections be carried out in The Cemetery, with a possible second course of treatment if required, and it be delegated to the Grounds Manager and Town Clerk to make that decision

62/17

FENCE AT MARLBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Members noted the Town Clerk's report. Discussion points included:

- The need to retain a boundary marker along the fence line
- The poor state of the existing fence
- Different options for fence types, including whether a post and rail fence could incorporate mesh screening, and estimated costs of each
- Whether MTFC would contribute to the costs
- The visual impact to the overall area
- A desire to support the town's sporting clubs
- The views of the Elcot Lane Playing Fields Committee (ELPFC)

- A new Chairman was due to be elected at the MTFC AGM in July
- Whether a meeting could be held between the Town Council, MTFC and ELPFC
- A desire to see examples of different fence options along with more detailed costs.

RESOLVED: to defer a decision until a meeting could be held between the three interested parties and more detailed information was available

63/17

MOWING OF THE BANKS ALONG THE A346 ENTRANCE TO MARLBOROUGH (SWINDON BANKS)

Members noted the Acting Grounds Manager's report outlining safety concerns with the maintenance of Swindon Banks (at the edge of The Common running alongside Port Hill). Members discussed:

- That Health and Safety advisors had confirmed that there was a safety risk from using the current equipment to maintain these banks. The maximum slope permitted by any Town Council machine was 15° and the slope of the bank was greater than 30°
- Different options for maintaining the bank and the financial implications of each
- Budget provision had already been made for a replacement tractor
- A mini bank mower would meet health & safety requirements, was the lower cost option but was slow and unlikely to be used at other Town Council locations
- A side arm flail would meet health & safety requirements, could be used in more locations, cover more tasks such as hedge cutting as well as grass bank cutting and would significantly speed up many routine maintenance jobs
- A potential income stream existing from the tractor and side flail option

RESOLVED: to agree to take on a five year lease for an Iseki 6490 tractor at £413.00 per month and with a McConnel PA4330 hedge cutter/flail at £158.00 per month

64/17

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. Matters discussed included:

- The existence of the path was not widely known by the general public
- The historical significance of the area, including the previous site of fish ponds at King John's castle and the existing scheduled monument
- That restoration work had been undertaken by ARK and the Town Council and that the Town Council maintained the path
- Whether to add signposts within the town
- Whether to name the path, and suggested names for it
- To consult with other parties (ARK, local residents) prior to any formal opening

- Whether to publicise the opening in advance of the event

RESOLVED: that the path leading to the River Og at Tin Pit be formally opened. A more detailed plan would be drawn up for a decision at the A&OS meeting in July 2017

65/17

DOG FOULING POSTER CAMPAIGN

Members considered a request by a local veterinary surgery to initiate a poster and sticker campaign to help improve dog fouling problems in Town Council owned public open spaces.

There was strong support from Members to raise awareness and improve the problems of dog fouling, which was an important issue for Marlborough. Similar educational campaigns in other parishes with some success.

Members noted that legislation was in place for local councils to issue on the spot fines.

RESOLVED: to accept the veterinary surgery's offer and that a poster be designed in time for input by A&OS Committee at its July meeting.

66/17

CEMETERIES

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

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

67/17

REQUESTS FOR USE OF OPEN SPACES

Members noted forthcoming use of open spaces by third parties.

RESOLVED: to grant permission to Prospect Hospice to use The Common as overflow parking for its Christmas Fair on 25th November 2017 at a hiring rate of £11.50

RESOLVED: to implement a policy to delegate decisions on granting requests for the use of open spaces to the Town Clerk for standard hirings, keeping Councillors informed of those decisions

68/17

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: (i) that Cllrs. Farrell, Castle and Ross would represent Marlborough Town Council on the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee

RESOLVED: (ii) that Cllrs. Castle and Cooper would represent Marlborough Town Council at the Allotment Association

RESOLVED: (iii) that Cllr. Cairns would represent Marlborough Town Council on the Marlborough in Bloom Committee

Members also noted that Marlborough in Bloom was in need of volunteers to become actively involved, particularly in the lead up to judging day in July and that there was an opportunity for Councillors to take part in this over a weekend.

69/17

TOWN TOUR

RESOLVED: that two evenings in early July would be set aside for a tour of Town Council owned land and open spaces between 6-9 pm

70/17

SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE A&OS COMMITTEE

Members noted additional meeting dates for 2017/18 (20th November 2017 and 12th March 2018).

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed:

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Date:

Chairman