

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

Minutes of a meeting of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** which was held on **Monday, 1 July 2019** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7pm

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor D. Heath	Chairman
	Councillor M. Hall	Town Mayor
	Councillor B. Castle	
	Councillor A. Ross	
	Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	
	Councillor L. Farrell	
	Councillor P. Cairns	
	Councillor M. Cooper	
<b>ALSO</b>	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator
	Mr N. Weatherly	Grounds Manager
	Councillor S. Dobson	Secretary, Marlborough Branch, Royal British Legion
	Mrs. E. M. Hannaford-Dobson	Treasurer, Marlborough Branch, Royal British Legion

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**108/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Forbes.

**109/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Barrett-Morton – agenda item 7 – Priory Gardens – non-pecuniary interest (referred to at Min. 111/19)

**110/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Cllr. Heath** thanked fellow Members for appointing him as Chairman.

Members would recall an ongoing negotiation with Aster about the path between the High Street, through the glass corridor and into Priory Gardens. The Town Council lodged an interest in this land and its right of way with HM Land Registry. Aster, through its solicitors, raised an objection to it. Earlier this year, Members met with Aster and a number of points of concern were raised. The outcome was that Aster withdrew its objection. This meant that our interest in the land and right of way was now listed on the Official Register. We are still awaiting further news from Aster on the fence or hedge it is keen to put in place.

**111/19 MINUTES**

Cllr. Barrett-Morton referred to the Minutes of the last meeting and stated that while he knew the rules in Priory Gardens were not enforceable, it was reasonable to expect users to respect them. Until recently when the “no ball games” rule was relaxed there was no problem if people were reminded about the rules. Sadly, since then all sorts of activities take place, which he was sure none of the members would want. He believed the Town Council was perfectly entitled to lay down rules for users and to make sure they were respected.

*After making this statement, which did not refer to the accuracy of the minutes, Cllr Barrett-Morton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Priory Gardens*

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 7 May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**112/19 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report was noted. The Town Clerk answered questions about dog fouling (**Min. 673/18**) including that this would be discussed at a future Area Board meeting, and that the Assistant Town Clerk would also be meeting with the Wiltshire Council Dog Warden to discuss Marlborough-specific issues.

**113/19 GROUND MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Ground Manager's report was noted. Matters arising included:

- **Cllr. Cooper** thanked the Grounds Manager for the 'dogs on leads' signs at the cemeteries
- Whether it was possible to provide a litter bin near the picnic benches in Coopers Meadow. During a recent community litter pick event quite a lot of litter had been collected in this area
- To add an agenda item to a future meeting to discuss whether the two memorial stones on the Common should be moved nearer the Beacon
- That the fencing in Coopers Meadow was not suitable for cattle but that it was possible that sheep would be returning for the summer

**114/19 PRIORY GARDENS**

Members noted a report with updates about Priory Gardens and considered requests for works:

Boundary Wall

The wall was deteriorating with several bricks having been pulled out by users of the gardens. Members noted that a survey would be undertaken to determine whether to repair or rebuild the wall, and that any urgent remedial work would be dealt with by the Town Clerk under delegated authority or via the Urgent Matters process.

Paths

The surface of footpaths throughout the gardens was a mixture of types, with poor surfaces, poor drainage and in some places requiring regular attention to ensure they were accessible to all users. The Grounds Manager put forward an option to tarmac areas not currently surfaced, as well as a more extensive option to re-surface the entire pathways.

**RESOLVED:** to obtain quotations for resurfacing of the paths in Priory Gardens for consideration at a future meeting

**115/19 STONEBRIDGE MEADOW**

**Cllr. Castle** updated Members on recent activities and news from Action for the River Kennet (ARK):

- River School events continued to be popular with many schools within a 20-mile radius taking part. **Cllr. Heath** had participated in these events
- New faggots had recently been added near the Poulton Bridge beach, and thanks to the Waitrose green tokens scheme fresh gravel would also be added here soon
- Wildlife – recent sightings included a pair of kingfishers, water vole activity as well as otter spraint
- Water crowfoot planting would continue through July

- Japanese students from the Tokai School in Nagoya had asked to get involved again during their annual visit to Marlborough
- Action had been taken over a 'deep water' sign that had been removed from the dipping pond and a damaged section of the boardwalk

The **Town Clerk** had carried out research about access from Stonebridge Close but further legal confirmation was needed about the current ownership of a small strip of land leading into the meadow.

**RESOLVED:** to request legal advice concerning land ownership and access rights at Stonebridge Meadow

**116/19 MANTON PLAY AREA**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk. **Cllr. Cooper** congratulated residents and parents on their hard work in moving the project forward, and for their fundraising activities, which together with CIL monies allocated by the Town Council, would bring funds up to the region of £70,000.

**RESOLVED:** (i) under Para 11 1.a) ii) of Financial Regulations, to commission Sports and Play Consulting to project manage the Manton play area upgrade

**RESOLVED:** (ii) to begin the tendering process for the re-design of the play area at Manton

**117/19 INTERPRETATION BOARDS**

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk about the condition and content of interpretation boards across the Parish and discussed whether any should be replaced or refurbished:

- In most cases either the condition of the boards required attention, or the content required updating, or both
- Costs had not yet been ascertained
- Whether to undertake a rolling programme of gradual replacement for all boards
- That the board on the High Street outside the Jubilee Centre and the board on The Common at the Frees Avenue/Kingsbury Street junction should be the highest priorities
- Whether there was an opportunity to incorporate Great West Way branding and information once a Tourism Officer had been appointed

**RESOLVED:** that a contractor be appointed to provide quotations for a rolling replacement programme, with the boards located on the High Street and the Common being upgraded first

**118/19 CEMETERIES**

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

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

**119/19 SKATEPARK LIGHTING**

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk about progress towards the lighting of the Skatepark at Salisbury Road Recreation Ground and that a bat survey was being arranged.

**120/19 SKATEPARK COMMUNITY DAY**

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk and considered a proposal to hold a Skatepark Community Day during the school summer holidays:

- A similar event had taken place when the skatepark was first opened
- The organisers, King Ramps, came highly recommended and references from other town councils had been provided
- Members were very supportive of providing activities for young people in the town

**RESOLVED:** to hold a skatepark community day during the 2019 school summer holidays

**121/19 OFFER OF WW1 MEMORIAL BENCHES**

The Marlborough Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) had generously offered to purchase up to 2 benches and two possible locations had been identified.

During a suspension of Standing Orders, Cllr. Stewart Dobson (RBL Secretary) and Mrs Marian Hannaford-Dobson (RBL Treasurer) explained a desire by the RBL to provide a permanent memorial to WW1 following the centenary events that took place in 2018. There were up to 10 bench designs to choose from, and locations suggested were either near the 7<sup>th</sup> Wiltshire Regiment Memorial in London Road or the corner of George Lane and Salisbury Road, locally known as Bert’s Corner. In the latter case, Members recognised an opportunity to create a small memorial garden at this location.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the Town Council thanked RBL for their generous offer and accepted the offer of two benches to be installed at Bert’s Corner

**RESOLVED:** (ii) that the Town Council should purchase a third WW1 bench to be located adjacent to the 7<sup>th</sup> Wilts Memorial in London Road

**122/19 MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM (MiB)**

The minutes of the most recent Working Party were noted. Questions were raised about the gateway planters and who was responsible for their ongoing maintenance. This point would be raised at the next Working Party meeting.

**123/19 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

The minutes of the most recent Allotment Association meeting were noted. The new committee continued to do an excellent job and the relationship with the Town Council was working well.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm

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