

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Monday 30th October 2006**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 8.21p.m.**

PRESENT	Councillor P. Cossey Councillor S. Dobson Councillor M. Cooper Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson Councillor M. Curtis	Chairman
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Linda Chapman Councillor Mrs E.M.Hannaford-Dobson	Town Clerk Civic Secretary Observer

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972

286/06 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Castle and M. Gray.

287/06 **DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest

288/06 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the Minutes dated July 31st 2006 Minute nos 168/06 The Green Audit and 169/06 The Old Graveyard are both in hand.

289/06 **REVIEW OF CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

The Committee considered the new Regulations for the Management of Marlborough Cemetery, Frees Avenue, Marlborough.

After a discussion the following amendments were suggested–

Burials and Memorials to read – No burial shall take place, no cremated human remains shall be made on any tombstone or other memorial shall be placed in the Cemetery and no additional inscription shall be made on any tombstone or other memorial without written permission of the Council. For full details and descriptions see Monuments and Inscriptions to be approved.

Monuments and Inscriptions to be approved – A pictorial description of every application to make sure it meets with our criteria. Will require precise details of the Memorial before an application can be approved by the Town Council.

The Mayor Councillor Bryan Castle entered the room at 8.35pm and apologised for his late arrival as he had been on Council business.

290 /06 **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT**

Following a letter from Kennet District Council regarding the problems associated with the possibility of the Town Council conducting litter patrols and enforcement action it was –

RECOMMENDED: that Officers of Kennet District Council are invited to a meeting to discuss what action can be taken in partnership to address litter, dog fouling and abandoned trolleys.

291/06 **SALISBURY ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

- a) The Town Clerk reported on the progress of the discussions with Coombe End House for short-term lease.

A discussion took place and it was –

Agreed that subject to approval of Planning permission a penalty clause should be added if for any reason the work is delayed on past the eighteen months agreed.

RECOMMENDED: that negotiations continue with Coombe End House.

- b) The Committee considered submitting an outline project plan for the future of the Recreation Ground to MCASP for inclusion in any community action plan

RECOMMENDED: that the project outline attached be submitted.

292/06 **REQUEST FROM RUGBY CLUB TO EXTEND THE CLUBHOUSE –**

The Committee considered a letter received by the Rugby Club requesting permission to site a steel container behind the Clubhouse and for permission to extend the Clubhouse.

Following a discussion some of the following points were raised –

- The Committee agreed in principle to option one.
- Need to be very precise as to how long the steel container is there and review on a yearly basis. The Town Clerk should write to the Rugby Club stating this.
- Would need a 2 metre gap between the hedge and the container and it should be screened.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to the siting of a steel container to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

293/06 **UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk gave a report on the following items –

- i. Priory Gardens –

A letter has been received from Sarsen Housing regarding fencing in the Priory Gardens, which has fallen into disrepair. It does not seem clear who actually owns the fencing. It was suggested that feather board fencing with anti climb paint would be a less expensive option.

- ii. Christmas Tree on The Green –
The Town Clerk reported that the supply box had been installed today and will be connected shortly.

The Committee felt that the Christmas tree lights on The Green should be switched on by The Mayor and a different night than the main switch on in the High Street.

- iii. Arrangements for establishing Annual meetings –

Leisure Centre

Kennet District Council would like clarification as to the reason for the meetings. Some of the following suggestions were put forward –

- Projected cost to the public (most important).
- Facilities for the disabled, which has been withdrawn.
- Standard of fitness equipment.
- Hours of opening
- Review of usage
- Current situation with Marlborough College

A tour of the facilities with a description on how they are used by a Kennet Officer rather than a member of staff would be appreciated.

Bowls Club

A meeting has been arranged for 20th November at 7pm

Rugby Club

Agreed to a meeting to be arranged the best time being between January and the end of March although there is an open invitation to watch the juniors.

Golf Club

Agreed to a meeting date and time to be arranged.

Town Clerk will get some dates for the New Year.

- iv. Footpath allocation
The list has been circulated to all Councillors.
- v. Action for the River Kennet Funding Bid
The TV cameras will be in the Priory Garden tomorrow. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor along with the Town Clerk and several of the staff will be there at 10am.

294/06

MAINTENANCE OF TREES AND HEDGES

Maintenance of Trees and Hedges

The Town Clerk reported that a tree survey was needed to identify work to be carried out to trees and hedges in the future. A programme of maintenance is needed.

Following a discussion it was suggested that the Staffing Committee could get the outside staff trained to deal with some of these problems. A designated budget heading for tree maintenance is needed.

One tree in Frees Avenue has been removed and another has died and local residents have requested that this also be removed. Did the Committee feel that these trees should be replaced? It was suggested that Mr Frees son could be approached to see if he would like to replace the trees, which were originally planted by his father.

RECOMMENDED: that the cost of a tree survey be included in estimates for 2007/08 but work should be progressed if presented a risk to the public.

Hedge on the Common

A discussion took place regarding the request from a resident of St. John's Close asking the town Council to take over the cutting of a hedge which has now become too much for some of the elderly residents to manage.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that the hedge should be retained as a natural habitat to encourage flora and fauna and should only be cut if it becomes dangerous.

295/06

MEETINGS WITH WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider establishing regular meetings with representatives of Wiltshire County Council to discuss highway matters.

A discussion took place and several problem areas were highlighted especially the poor state of the drains. It was noted that when asked to look into any problems involving Wiltshire County Council by either members of the public or fellow Councillors, Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford will always act and try and sort the problem as quickly as possible.

Proposed by Councillor M. Cooper, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that a meeting with Wiltshire County Council should be arranged.

296/06

CEMETERY

- a) Exclusive Right of Burial
- b) Exclusive Right of Burial/Notice of Interment
- c) Memorial and Inscription.
- d) Replace existing Memorial

The Committee noted this.

The meeting closed at 9.52pm

