

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Monday 31st July 2006**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 8.04p.m.**

---

<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor P. Cossey Councillor B.D. Castle Councillor S. Dobson Councillor M. Cooper Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson	Chairman
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Linda Chapman	Town Clerk Civic Secretary

---

**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**

164/06 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Curtis and M. Gray.

165/06 **DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest

166/06 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee.

167/06 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that Councillor M. Cooper be elected as Vice Chairman of Amenities and Open Spaces Committee for 2006/2007

168/06 **GREEN AUDIT**

Some of the following points were discussed –

- Should be composting where we can.
- Minimise the use of Pesticides etc.
- Save fuel/energy wherever possible.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** unanimously that the Town Clerk should meet with a representative from Kennet District Council to discuss the application of a Green Audit and report back to this Committee in due course.

169/06 **CEMETERY**

**Tree Works –**

The Town Clerk stated that in the old Cemetery one old Cedar overhanging the path and one damaged with a dangerous limb adjacent to the Common. We have been advised that either or both of these trees could suffer further limb failure in the future, a price has been obtained for this work.

In the new Cemetery have been advised that the Ash and Oak trees would benefit from reducing and dead wooding, the Ash in particular needs significant reduction before it falls having already split. I have not obtained any prices for this work as yet. The Tree Officer at Kennet has visited the site and would consider all work essential maintenance but this will require confirmation in writing.

After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that due to the health and safety factor and with Kennet District Council's Tree Officer's approval we should go ahead and do this work. The other work would need assessing.

**New extension to Cemetery –**

The Town Clerk stated that she had already obtained a general estimate of how much the land will cost to clear which will be included for consideration when next years estimates are discussed. I would suggest that some of the £500 set aside this year for investigation is used to identify what is on the area that cannot be taken away by earth clearance and make arrangements for this to be removed possibly by hiring a skip.

Following a discussion some of the following points were raised –

- The sooner this work is carried out the better at the moment it is an open invitation for people to tip their rubbish there.
- We only want to clear it once.
- When it's cleared will need to have the outside work force keep an eye on the area to prevent any tipping taking place.
- Will need to investigate a new site, which isn't going to happen overnight for when this one is full.
- Clearance should start towards the end of this financial year.

It was agreed to allow the Town Clerk to proceed with ?????

**Old Graveyard –**

The long-term maintenance of the old graveyard needs to be considered, especially the health and safety aspects of grave stones, trees etc and establish a programme for action.

The following comments were made –

- Need to take action on the stones that are toppling over and the trees that are dangerous.
- Would be very costly to move all of the headstones around the edge of the cemetery.
- Local people find the old cemetery a font of knowledge and visitors come to try and look up their ancestors.
- Need to look at the railings as they are dangerous.
- All graves are being catalogued.

It was agreed unanimously in principle to look at ?????

#### 170/06 **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT**

The Town Clerk asked the Committee if they agreed in principle to pursuing the enforcement of these powers bearing in mind that there would be training requirements for the staff to carry out enforcements? The benefits in the long run would come from income from the fines although this would have to be put back into provision i.e. staff and administration costs. Although less time would be spent by staff on litter picking time would be spent doing enforcement. However if the powers are successful this income would dry up but in theory the time spent litter picking would reduce. In respect of dog fouling anything that can be done to enforce this in the areas we maintain will have a benefit to the grounds staff.

The following comments were made –

- Kennet District Council has agreed to train our staff alongside their own staff at a cost.
- In our own areas we could carry out on the spot fines and fixed penalties.
- Kennet will employ people to be litter wardens and we can invite them into our area.
- Not aware of any successful prosecution in this area.

The Committee agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate the cost involved and report back.

#### 171/06 **REPORT ON MEETING HELD WITH THE RUGBY CLUB ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006**

The Chairman stated that The Mayor, Town Clerk and himself met with representatives of the Rugby Club. They draw players from several of the surrounding villages and this is increasing by 10% a year.

The Town Clerk stated that we received a very informative presentation on the future development of the Rugby Club particularly in relation to the increased activity in the junior section, which currently stands at 130 members between the ages of 6 and 14. The aim is to extend the upper range to fill in the gap between juniors and seniors. They also wish to extend the coaching to girls, which will require the changing room currently used for storage to be returned to its original design. This will leave significant lack of storage and thought is being given to short, medium and long-term solutions.

The Chairman stated that this did not take into account the senior members. In the short term they get a container for storage and put it at the back of the building. They had thought about going up into the roof space.

The following comments were made –

- The Town Council has been assured at the time that there would be no further building undertaken.
- There are certain covenants put on this building, which need checking.

The Committee agreed that this information be noted.

172/06 **CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE GREEN**

The Town Clerk stated that there is a budget of £1,000, and that she needs to know where the Town Council wants the tree to go so that she can progress the installation of a connection into the nearest available lighting supply, which will probably be the closest street lighting column. This will require permission from Southern Energy and possibly Wilts County Council. The installation of the feeder pillar will need to be carried out by electrical contractors and dependent on where we put the tree there may also be a requirement to lay cable underground.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate where the supply would be connected and the cost.

173/06 **SALISBURY ROAD PLAYAREA**

The Town Clerk stated that the remaining equipment on the toddlers play area has been examined by the Health and Safety Officer and has been deemed unsafe due to the de-lamination of the items. In addition vandalism has taken its toll but this has fortunately been reduced recently following discussions with the police. The fence has also suffered and members need to consider either repair or removal of the fence and removal of all of the equipment except the spring mobile.

The following points were discussed –

- If the equipment is unsafe then it needs to be removed.
- Need to make people are aware that it has been removed for health and safety reasons by putting up notices.
- New items would be better made out of plastic.

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

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that all offending equipment should be removed due to health and safety reasons and replaced in due course. A press release to go in the local newspaper and an article in The Greyhound also notices placed in the play area.

174/06 **LIST OF FOOTPATHS FOR COUNCILLORS**

The Town Clerk stated that this is the only list e have on file but there seems to be a number of footpaths not listed I also seem unable to find a designation of which are public rights of way etc but I will pursue this with Wilts County Council. I am circulating a copy of a draft reporting form and have added an item for suggestions of actions required i.e. install litterbins etc.

Following a discussion it agreed that the walks should take place in time to report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman added that this year Councillors should test the water by walking it once and see how it works out. All forms will need to be returned to the Town Clerk so they can be ticked off.

**UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk gave a report on the following items –

**i. Priory Gardens –**

Still have a lot of problems with litter and anti social behaviour, police are assisting. I have copied a report of a survey carried out last year by the Crime Reduction Officer, as far as I am aware the Town Council were not involved. However, I understand the CCTV is being considered by Sarsen Housing in respect the rear of the Priory. In short term we need to identify who is responsible for the post and mesh fencing and if it is not the Town Council ask for this to be replaced, look at improved signage and longer term look at enforcement either by Kennet Litter Officers or ourselves.

**ii. Goal Posts on The Common**

The goalpost is on order and will be installed as soon as it is received.

**iii. Litter collection by Grounds Staff**

Following changes to the refuse collection the workshop can no longer receive domestic collection contract for the removal of the litter gathered by grounds staff has had to be arranged, this at present will cost over £500 per year.

**iv. Arrangements for establishing Annual meetings with the following –****K.D.C. – Leisure Centre****Bowls Club****Rugby Club****Golf Club**

I would suggest we write to each club requesting an annual business meeting and in the case of the Bowls and Golf Club suggesting if you wish a challenge match in addition to the business meeting.

Councillor noted this report.

**CEMETERY (copy attached)**

- a) Exclusive Right of Burial
- b) Memorial and Inscription.

Councillors noted this.

---

**The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.**