

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Recreation and Amenities Committee**, which was held on **Monday 5th January 2004**, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough, at 7.46pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. P. A. Dow
Councillor W. B. Cavill
Councillor G. Francis

Chairman
Town Mayor
Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor M. P. Cooper
Councillor B. Castle
Councillor M. C. Curtis
Councillor D. L. Parker
Councillor R. J. Allen
Councillor P. B. Cossey

Graham Gittins
Jonathan Mansfield

Town Clerk
Civic Secretary

Mrs G. Banyard

Mindfully Employed

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs. P. A. Dow assumed the chair.

Before the meeting began Mrs G. Banyard gave a short presentation to thank Marlborough Town Councillors for their support of Mindfully Employed.

392/03 APOLOGIES:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps.

393/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor M. P. Cooper – Item 6 (non-financial interest)

394/03 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of 17th November 2003, be taken as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

395/03 SKATEBOARD RAMP AT RABLEY WOOD:

The Chairman informed the Committee that Mr Dobie had approached Kennet District Council for the lease of the land necessary to build a skateboard ramp at Rabley Wood. The Committee discussed whether a study should be undertaken to research the potential environmental impact, particularly noise, on the local residents.

The Mayor proposed that a letter is written to Mr Dobie giving the Council's support for his plans and to ask for Mr Dobie to keep the Council informed of Kennet District Council's response to his request for the lease of the land. The Mayor added that this Council should support and encourage this amenity for the youngsters of Rabley Wood View.

396/03

LAND AND WOODLAND OWNED BY KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL:

The Chairman informed the Committee that Kennet District Council has offered Marlborough Town Council the transfer of Rogers Meadow, Rabley Wood and the College Fields, which they currently maintain. Kennet District Council had also included Wye House, which is currently leased to Marlborough Town Council on a 125 year lease.

The Committee agreed in principle to the transfer of the land, provided that the financial payment for the maintenance of the land was agreed.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to write to Kennet District Council agreeing in principle to the suggested transfer of Rogers Meadow, Rabley Wood and the College Fields but to ask for a commuted sum or yearly figure for the ongoing maintenance.

The Mayor added that Marlborough Town Council should ask Kennet District Council for the Freehold of Wye House and that the Senior Groundsman should estimate the cost in man-hours of maintaining these areas.

Councillor M. P. Cooper left the room at 8.10pm

397/03

ALLOTMENTS:

(a) Provision of water at St. John's Close:

The Chairman informed the Committee that during a previous meeting, the Committee were told that there were 12 allotments in St. John's Close; there are in fact only 5 Marlborough Town Council allotments and 2 private allotments. The Committee discussed the provision of water at the St. John's Close allotments.

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, that no further action be taken.

(b) Fencing of allotments at St. John's Close:

The Chairman stated that half of the allotments at St. John's Close were fenced with Chestnut paling fencing and asked the Committee to recommend whether to fence the rest of the allotments.

Proposed by Councillor M. C. Curtis, seconded by Councillor D. L. Parker and –

RECOMMENDED: By 7 votes to 1 vote, that no further action be taken.

Councillor B. Castle voted against the recommendation.

Councillor M. P. Cooper returned at 8.21pm

398/03

2004 COMMITTEE:

(a) Priory Gardens:

Councillor G. Francis asked the Committee to consider a request that the English Civil War Society (ECWS) set up a 'Living History' display in the Priory Gardens and that they be given permission to unload in the Priory car park.

Councillor D. L. Parker reminded the Committee that the car park belongs to Sarsen Housing.

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, that the ECWS be given permission subject to the following:

- ?? A refundable Bond of £200 is deposited at the Marlborough Town Council Offices to guard against any damage to the Gardens, along with -
- ?? A copy of the ECWS's Public Liability Insurance Certificate and –
- ?? A copy of a Risk Assessment of the event.
- ?? Approval from the Trustees of the Priory Gardens.

(b) The Common:

Councillor G. Francis asked the Committee to consider a request that the ECWS use the Common as a campsite suitable for 100 modern tents; that two camp fires be allowed on the Common and that a catering truck is also allowed to pitch on the Common.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, that the ECWS be given permission subject to the following:

- ?? A refundable Bond of £500 is deposited at the Marlborough Town Council Offices to guard against any damage to the Common, along with –
- ?? A copy of the ECWS's Public Liability Insurance Certificate and –
- ?? A copy of a Risk Assessment of the event.
- ?? That the site entrances and exits are stewarded at all times.

The Town Clerk said that the Health and Safety Officer would complete a Risk Assessment for the fires on the Common.

399/03

SALISBURY ROAD AND THE COMMON PLAY AREAS:

The Chairman stated that in October 2003, Zurich Municipal the Marlborough Town Council Insurers, gave this Council twelve months to repair the safety surfaces on the Common and Salisbury Road play areas. The Chairman added that to replace the surface and swings on the Common is estimated to cost £3,700 and that this could come from the £25,000 in earmarked reserves for play areas.

Proposed by Councillor P. B. Cossey, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to proceed with seeking tenders for the replacement of the Common swings and safety surface.

The Chairman said that the renewal of the Salisbury Road play area will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (16th February 2004).

400/03

PRIORY GARDENS:

The Town Clerk referred to the report undertaken by Mark Lovell, which states that the Priory Gardens/Figgins Lane boundary wall is in a reasonable condition. The Town Clerk stated that there was some disagreement between Mark Lovell Associates and the Kennet District Council Tree Officer, who does not want the large Sycamore tree removed, but its roots bridged so as not to affect the integrity of the wall. The Town Clerk has left the two advisors to discuss this between themselves and he added that Marlborough Town Council's builder could, over twelve months, repair the mortar in the wall; he asked for the Committee to make a recommendation.

(i) Proposed by Councillor P. B. Cossey, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, if necessary, to remove the large Sycamore tree.

(ii) Proposed by Councillor M. C. Curtis, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to ask Marlborough Town Council's builder to address the repairs in the wall.

401/03

ELCOT LANE TENNIS COURTS:

Councillor P. B. Cossey informed the Committee that the Chairman of the Marlborough Tennis Club, Mrs H. Moore, has received two quotations to build six tennis courts at Elcot Lane. The Tennis Club will decide which quotation to accept on 29th January 2004 and Mrs Moore will contact Marlborough Town Council as soon afterwards to discuss the move forward.

402/03

SALISBURY ROAD RECREATION GROUND:

(a) Dog Fouling:

The Chairman stated that the dog waste bags were being used and that Kennet District Council had given permission for the used bags to be thrown into the ordinary waste bins.

Councillor D. L. Parker thanked the Town Clerk and Kennet District Council for their efforts to clean up the Recreation Ground. The Committee discussed extending the service to Cooper's Meadow.

(i) Proposed by Councillor P. B. Cossey, seconded by Councillor D. L. Parker and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to extend the service to two more bag dispensers at Coopers Meadow.

(ii) Proposed by Councillor P. B. Cossey, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to approach Wiltshire County Council to ask for two similar bins, one at each end of Stonebridge Lane.

(b) Litter:

The Committee discussed the amount of litter on the Recreation Ground and the issue of youths drinking alcohol in the area.

Councillor R. J. Allen said that it was unfair to lay blame on the Youth Centre, as youngsters abuse the Recreation Ground when the Youth Centre is closed.

Councillor D. L. Parker asked if Councillor R. J. Allen could mention the lack of lighting to the Youth Centre Committee.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to write to Inspector Dowling at the Marlborough Police Station to ask if he would regularly inspect the play area for under-age drinkers and to ask Councillor R. J. Allen to mention the lack of lighting to the Youth Centre Committee.

403/03 **REAR ACCESS TO LONDON ROAD COTTAGES:**

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Council is waiting to hear from Sarsen regarding the rear access to the London Road cottages.

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor R. J. Allen and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to include this as an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (16th February 2004).

404/03 **RAILINGS IN THE HIGH STREET:**

The Committee discussed the repair/repainting of the railings in Marlborough and the source of funding for the work required.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RECOMMENDED: Unanimously, to write to George Batten at Wiltshire County Council to ask for a commuted sum to carry out repairs on all railings in Marlborough and, providing the money is forthcoming, to approach contractors to tender and for Delegated Powers to be given to carry this out immediately.

405/03 TOWN HALL RENOVATION:

The Town Clerk stated that hopefully work would begin on the Town Hall in mid January.

Councillor D. L. Parker said he would give a further update at his Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 19th January 2004.

406/03 CEMETERIES:

(a) Exclusive Right of Burials.

There have been no applications for Exclusive Right of Burial.

(b) Memorials and Inscriptions.

The Committee confirmed the following applications for additional inscriptions –

(i) Grave Space 194, Section (C), additional inscription:

‘Loving and lasting memories of a very dear Mum and Nan, Florence May Prout, 12 April 1912, 26 February 2003, you will always be in our thoughts’.

(ii) Grave Space (186), Section (B), additional inscription:

‘His Wife Maud, 1918-2003, gone from us but not forgotten’.

(iii) Grave Space 99, Section F(CR), additional inscription:

‘Devoted loving Wife, Mum, Sister and Nan, Muriel Hawkins, born 03.07.41, died 20.10.03’.

(iv) Grave Space 251, Section (D), additional inscription:

‘Also the beloved Wife of John, Muriel Elizabeth Skoof, 1921-2003, beloved parents and grandparents rest in peace together’.

(v) Grave Space 175, Section (D), additional inscription:

‘And his dear Wife, Rita, at rest 25th July 2003 aged 64’.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm