

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

### AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough**, at 7.38 pm

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor M. Rose Councillor E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor B. Castle Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor L. Farrell Councillor A. Light	Chairman Town Mayor
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Councillor S. Dobson Councillor M. Hall Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor J. Cook Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Mr. R. Beale Mrs S. Pryor Plus 4 members of the public	Observing Observing Observing Observing Town Clerk Administrator Grounds & Estates Manager The Adviser

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#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman admitted a question from a member of the public who was unable to attend the meeting in person:

**Mr Kerton (resident)** – vehicles have been causing damage in the form of deep ruts in Footpath 45 at the entrance to Stonebridge Meadow near the football club. Mr Kerton had earlier suggested a quantity of road scalplings might lessen the problem, and could see no justifiable reason for vehicles to go into the meadow during such wet times of the year. The question would be passed to the Grounds & Estates Manager (GEM) for a response.

**493/15**

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs. Ross and Lam.

**494/15**

#### **DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**495/15**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed four members of the Youth Council, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Members were all welcome at a meeting at Marlborough Town Football Club at 11.30 am on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to discuss a proposed extension.

**496/15**

#### **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be

approved and signed as a correct record.

*The Grounds & Estates Manager joined the meeting*

In consideration of a number of members of the Youth Council present, the Chairman proposed to move agenda items 8 (Play Equipment at Cooper's Meadow) and 9 (Seating at Skatepark) to the next part of the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** to discuss items pertinent to the Youth Council as the next agenda items.

**497/15**

### **COOPER'S MEADOW PLAY EQUIPMENT**

The Youth Council members were given their first opportunity to see two designs which had been received, displayed on boards at the meeting. **Lucy Humphrey**, Acting Chairman of the Youth Council, asked that the designs be sent to the Youth Council to help them discuss the plans with students at St Peter's and St John's as well as at the Youth Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The Grounds & Estates Manager would also provide them with catalogues, and Cllr. Hannaford-Dobson offered to drive Members to Mildenhall to view the play area there. The Chairman hoped the designs would be helpful and emphasised that the Youth Council were at liberty to suggest other options besides those already presented.

**RESOLVED:** that designs are submitted to the Youth Council at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February and suggested designs will then be brought back to the A&OS Committee.

*Lucy Humphrey left the meeting*

**498/15**

### **SKATEPARK**

There was currently no seating available at the Skatepark as it had been removed due to damage. A replacement was being considered, including covered seating but, this fell outside the available budget of £1,000. Youth Council members were keen for seating to be reinstated as soon as possible, even if on a temporary basis. The GEM confirmed he could use some of the budget to carry out temporary repairs and reinstate the damaged seating. The Town Clerk explained that the remaining budget could be earmarked and combined with the budget for 2016/17. There was also potential for fund-raising, including approaching the Area Board, to raise the additional funds towards a covered shelter.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Town Clerk and GEM to take this back to the Youth Council to identify appropriate seating, and purchase this within the constraints of the available budget and Financial Regulations.

*Youth Council members left the meeting*

**499/15**

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The contents of the Town Clerk's report were noted. Cllr. Dobson's request on behalf of residents for Footpath 45 to be marked with signposting was noted.

**500/15**

### **GROUNDS AND ESTATES MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members noted a report by the Grounds and Estates Manager, and congratulated Michael Haines on achieving an award as Horticulture Apprentice 2015. The GEM suggested it might be helpful to raise some public awareness around difficulties with grass cutting and other ongoing works in the Cemetery. A dead tree had been removed from Priory Gardens. As the original was planted by Cllr. Dobson, he was offered the opportunity to select a replacement. Appreciation was expressed to Marlborough Town Football Club (MTFC) for the loan of their pitch spiker, which had

helped keep the football pitch at the Recreation Ground playable during very wet weather. In return MTC would provide MTFC the use of a tractor and driver to carry out similar work to their grounds.

**501/15 WRITTEN MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR M. ROSE (TOWN MAYOR)**

In accordance with Standing Order 10, Cllr. M Rose (seconded by Cllr. E.M. Hannaford-Dobson) had submitted the following written motion:

*I propose that this Council erects a replacement shed in the Priory Gardens Car Park for the use of the Outside Staff in their maintenance of the Priory Gardens.*

Cllr. Rose withdrew the motion with Cllr. Hannaford-Dobson's support.

**502/15 COOPER'S MEADOW**

The Grounds & Estate Manager's report was noted. Fresh play grade bark chips had been purchased for Cooper's Meadow play area and started to be spread. He was in the process of arranging a meeting of the Cooper's Meadow User Group (provisionally Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 2 pm) and felt it would be helpful to outline the area of the Meadow to be reserved for sheep grazing at that meeting. In order to do so he would arrange a further meeting in the Meadow with Committee Members and the Herdsman to mark out a proposed area – ARK had already specified this should be two thirds of the 2015 area to meet the needs of the animals, date to be advised during w/c 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**RESOLVED:** that the GEM write to the local resident with concerns about the condition of the surface at Cooper's Meadow assuring her that replacement bark is to be added.

**RESOLVED:** that the GEM will arrange a meeting in Cooper's Meadow with Committee Members and the Herdsman to mark out fence boundaries for 2016 sheep grazing area.

**503/15 BOULES COURT**

The Town Clerk's report was noted, containing a request by the University of the Third Age (U3A) for a Boules/Petanque Court on public open space in Marlborough. There was general support for the idea, and it was suggested that this should be in a location near facilities such as public conveniences and car parks. Having prior experience with installing these courts in other towns, the GEM suggested it might need to be enclosed by fencing. U3A would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail.

**RESOLVED:** that a Boules/Petanque Court is agreed in principle to be located near facilities with a site yet to be determined and for the Town Clerk to discuss future funding arrangements.

**504/15 THE COMMON**

The Town Clerk's report was noted. Members considered requests for parking on The Common for private and community events, and to hold a professional Stunt Show in July 2016.

**RESOLVED:** that the GEM identify potential area(s) for car parking to possibly include the laying of protective mesh and provide a report to the A&OS Committee, duly consulting with the Common Users Group.

**RESOLVED:** by 6 votes for with 1 abstention to agree to the request for hiring of The Common for a Stunt Show in July.

**505/15 ORCHARD ROAD PLAY AREA**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about progress on the acquisition of land for the new Orchard Road Play Area and installation of equipment.

**506/15 RUGBY CLUB**

The Town Clerk's report was noted. Members considered advertising on the side of the Clubhouse, and arrangements around use of the newly levelled area. There were differing views on the request for advertising and the impact it would have on the general area. Cllr. Kirk Wilson proposed, and Cllr. Farrell seconded, to agree to the signage erected on the Clubhouse as requested and that there is a stipulation that planning permission is sought if necessary. There were 3 votes for with 4 against, therefore this was not carried.

**RESOLVED:** to agree to move ahead with an Agreement setting out usage of the levelled area for junior rugby and football players.

**507/15 CEMETERIES**

i) Recent grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial were noted.

ii) Approved Memorials and Inscriptions were noted.

*Cllr. Hall left the meeting*

iii) Non-standard burial plots had resulted in logistical problems for the Grounds Team gaining access for maintenance or to carry out further burials.

**RESOLVED: (i)** by 6 votes for with 1 abstention that the Town Clerk will write to the families alerting them that their contravention of the Cemetery regulations may lead to the removal of the artificial grass grave covering and ornaments by the Town Council in order to gain access for maintenance and/or to carry out burials in nearby plots; and

**RESOLVED: (ii)** to review the Cemetery rules.

iv) Requirements for the Old Cemetery were considered. It would be necessary to find funds for a survey report to support an application for heritage funding to move the project forward. The GEM agreed to provide a report to start this process which could then be discussed at the A&OS Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**RESOLVED:** that a strimmer and foxgloves are purchased for the Old Victorian Cemetery.

**RESOLVED:** that a notice is placed on the gate directing users to the public footpath.

**508/15 OPEN SPACES FEES**

Members considered fees for the use of open spaces in 2016/17.

**RESOLVED:** that the proposed charges be agreed, and a fee for use of the levelled land on The Common set out in 506/15 to be agreed at a future meeting.

**509/15 MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM**

Members noted a report by the Grounds and Estates Manager. As the theme for 2016 was bees, Cllr. Dobson would follow up an offer from a local resident to provide a number of beehives.

**510/15 CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered involvement in a national campaign spearheaded by Keep Britain Tidy and promoted by Wiltshire Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk would liaise with Andrew Jack (Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager for Marlborough) to offer support and equipment.

511/15

**MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

Members noted a report and considered the planting of trees around the town and damage to surrounding flower beds and plants.

**RESOLVED: (i)** that the agreement with Marlborough Orchard Group to plant further apple trees is revisited, and that the number of further plantings be defined and the locations restricted to specifically agreed Town Council sites only.

**RESOLVED: (ii)** that the GEM recommends that the tree planted in Wye House gardens be moved with immediate effect, either to a more suitable area or re-potted and returned to Marlborough Orchard Group for replanting in an appropriate area. The ground team at MTC should not be held responsible if the tree suffers as a result.

**RESOLVED: (iii)** the Town Clerk writes to Marlborough Orchard Group to remind them that the Town Council's gardens are to be fully respected during their maintenance operations, that the Town Council be informed before planting or maintenance takes place, and that under no circumstances should any established plants be dug up or damaged, and to ask about plans for future planting.

*Mrs Pryor left the meeting*

512/15

**DOG FOULING**

Members noted a progress report by the Grounds and Estates Manager which gave an update on work to combat dog fouling.

513/15

**STONEBRIDGE MEADOW COMMITTEE**

A recent resignation had been withdrawn, so there was no requirement to select a new representative to this Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.17 pm

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