

## ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, Ballards Ash, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion, Susan Doyle (late), Linda Frost, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield, John Wilks.

Also in Attendance: Councillors Chris Wannell, Audrey Wannell, Ian Ferries, Paul Heaphy and Michael Page.

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager, Emily Maiden, Committee Clerk & Administrative Officer.

### 25. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

### 26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with sections 10 and 12 of Wiltshire Council's Members Code of Conduct, as adopted by Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council at a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

RESOLVED to note that no Declarations of Interest were made.

### 27. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councillor Susan Doyle joined the meeting, 7.41pm*

The following announcements were made: -

- Planning permission has been granted to allow the Jubilee Lake Tea Rooms to remain in situ throughout the year.

- The success of the Tea Rooms has seen an increase in the usage of the toilets at Jubilee Lake. Quotes are currently being obtained to replace the flooring of the toilets, as the current surface is not suitable for the increased level of use.
- The Sports Association has signed the agreement and budget provision for the Town Council's Groundsman Andy Clinch to undertake work at the facility.
- A request has been received from the Cubs regarding the floral display on the bank opposite the BP garage. 2015 represents 100 years of the Cub Scouts, therefore a suggestion has been made that the floral display depicts the Cub Scout logo for the next season. As there have been no other requests, it has been agreed to order plants for the depiction of the Cub Scout logo.
- Following the success of the town's inaugural entry into the South West in Bloom competition, a meeting was held to prepare for the 2016 event. It was decided to change the name of the competition to avoid confusion with the annual Bassett in Bloom event. The Committee organising the 2016 entry has been asked to vote on the new name by 12 noon on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015. There was some concern about the short timescale; the Chairman will therefore seek an extension until Monday to allow all Committee members the chance to be involved.

## **28. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015, copy previously circulated.

## **29. LITTER REPORT**

The Committee received the recent Litter and Vandalism Report, copy previously circulated.

It was noted that there had been two separate fires at Otter Way play area, each deliberately set by youths and picked up by the CCTV cameras. Police reports were submitted and local officers are currently conducting investigations and working with the CCTV suite to identify those responsible.

The incidents are part of a pattern of anti-social behaviour that has become noticeable in the town since the closure of the Youth Centre.

Residents have also complained about youths gathering at Old Court play area and staying until 3am with no consideration for noise levels. It was suggested that such incidents continue to be monitored, and that the CCTV Supervisor be approached for his views on the suitability of Old Court play area for a new camera, bearing in mind the need for additional lighting to make such a scheme viable.

RESOLVED to note the report.

### **30. PLAY AREA AND OPEN SPACES WORKING PARTY**

*Councillors Chris and Audrey Wannell left the meeting, 8.07pm.*

The Committee considered a report on a meeting of the Play Area and Open Spaces Working Party; held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015, copy previously circulated.

The Play Area and Open Spaces Working Party recommended that: -

- Colin Kennerson of Wiltshire Council be approached to establish whether S106 funds can be used at Showfield and New Road play areas,
- The following works are out to tender –
  - 1) A multi gym fitness station at Otter Way, Showfield, Poetsfield and New Road,
  - 2) A half basketball court for Otter Way,
  - 3) Double swing set for Otter Way.
- A quotation is sourced for the soft pour surrounding the ship at Jubilee Lake play area.

The Committee was asked to consider the recommendations above.

Members were advised that Colin Kennerson had been contacted and had informed the Working Party that S106 funds could not be used at Showfield and New Road. It was therefore suggested that the Working Party continue with the tenders for the new pieces of equipment at Otter Way and Poetsfield only.

During the discussion, it was noted that there are not enough benches near to the play area at Jubilee Lake; it was therefore suggested that one of the

spare benches currently in storage at the workshop be used for this purpose.

RESOLVED to: -

- a) Continue the tender process for: -
  - 1) A multi gym fitness station at Otter Way and Poetfield
  - 2) A half basketball court for Otter Way,
  - 3) Double swing set for Otter Way.

The usage of these items would then be monitored to assess whether further pieces of equipment could be successful at Showfield and New Road in the future.

- b) Source a quotation for the soft pour surrounding the ship at Jubilee Lake play area to be drawn from the Amenities budget.

### **31. EVENTS WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received a verbal update on a meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 from Councillor Mike Leighfield, Chairman of the Events Working Party. The preparations are progressing well, with a number of stage and satellite acts attending the event this year as well as the specialist stalls that have been used previously.

### **32. OTTER WAY PATH**

The Committee was asked to note that the work to repair the footpath at Otter Way is being re-tendered due to the previous tenders being unsuitable. Three tenders were received and the lowest tender previously accepted. When checked by the Council's architects the tender was inflated to over £100,000. The second lowest tender was in the region of £35,000 but have failed to respond to the Council's architect when inviting them to submit the detail of their tender.

The Council's architect has therefore recommended that the job be retendered particularly as the Council Groundstaff have carried out emergency short-term repairs.

RESOLVED to note the above.

### **33. RENEWAL OF ANGLING CLUB LEASE**

The lease that allows the Angling Club to fish at Jubilee Lake is due for renewal from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. The Council's solicitors have prepared a new lease accordingly. Key points included within the lease are as follows: -

- The lease allows the tenant statutory renewal rights, and will expire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. After this date the tenant is entitled to another lease on similar terms at the market rate.
- Rental will be £200 per annum in advance, with the first payment to be made on execution of the lease and subsequent payments on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.
- Wootton Bassett Sea Cadets are able to use the Lake every Thursday between 5pm – 10pm, and on one Sunday per month between April and October.
- The Town Council is able to let other clubs use Jubilee Lake during the closed fishing season, which lasts from 14<sup>th</sup> March – 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The Committee was asked to approve the renewal of the Angling Club lease for the use of Jubilee Lake for the purpose of fishing activities during the open fishing season.

RESOLVED to approve the renewal of the Angling Club lease for the use of Jubilee Lake as above.

### **34. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

*Councillor Michael Page left the meeting, 8.35pm.*

The Committee was asked to consider making recommendations to the Revenue and Resources Committee for its budgetary position in the 2016-2017 financial year. Copies of the draft estimates relating to Amenities previously circulated.

Members were reminded that the draft estimates represent on-going commitments and service provision at current levels. Changes have only been incorporated where there is a clear intent by the Council to undertake change following discussion with the Chairman.

Members were also asked to note that to avoid problems previously experienced, all recharges have been set to zero for budgetary purposes only.

The Committee was asked to consider the draft budget for the 2016-2017 year and make recommendations accordingly.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the figures to take to the next Revenue and Resources Committee meeting.

*Councillor Paul Heaphy left the meeting, 9pm.*

### **35. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee was asked to consider whether it would like any Press Releases or other Communications issued in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED not to issue any communications.

*The meeting closed at 9.40pm*