

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10th September 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, Linda Frost, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield.

Also in Attendance: Councillors Ian Ferries and Paul Heaphy.

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

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janet Georgiou and John Wilks.

16. 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 12th July 2012.

RESOLVED to note that no Declarations of Interest were made.

17. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked those who attended the recent opening of the Jacqui Woolford Memorial Land, and extended a huge thank you to the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Team for all the hard work and effort that they had put into the site. Members of the Woolford family attended the dedication of the site and are happy with the outcome of the project, which aims to provide an area for quiet reflection that can be appreciated by the older generation of the town. The site is well used by dog walkers; however there has not been a problem with dog fouling. It

was suggested that the Grounds Maintenance Team monitor the area to ensure that the site remains free of such problems.

The Chairman informed the Committee that a complaint had been received regarding the location of the parking signs on the High Street, which are difficult to see due to the position of the Town Council's hanging baskets. In 2009, it had been agreed that Wiltshire Council's parking signs would be placed on the poles erected by the Town Council to house the hanging baskets, which would negate the need for additional street furniture on the High Street. It has been noted on Facebook that the signs are now obscured by the plants growing from the hanging baskets; with the consequence that visitors to the town are not aware that free parking on the High Street is limited to two-hours only. The signs belong to Wiltshire Council as the principal authority, therefore the Town Council will be working to resolve the issue through their Parking Services department by enquiring into the possibility of Wiltshire Council positioning the signs lower on the poles to avoid obstruction of the signage.

18. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 4th June 2015, copy previously circulated.

19. LITTER REPORT

The Committee received the recent Litter and Vandalism Report, copy previously circulated. It was noted that the item noted 'damaged fence at New Road Play Area' is the responsibility of Greensquare Housing, however the Grounds Maintenance Team Leader had to spend time chasing up Greensquare and removing any branches that had been damaged so as to make the immediate area safe.

Members noted that recent Litter and Vandalism Reports compare very favourably to those that were issued in previous years.

RESOLVED to note the report.

20. AMENITIES FORWARD PLAN 2015-2017

Members received a copy of the proposed forward plan for the Amenities Committee for discussion, copy previously circulated.

The Committee discussed the items included on the Forward Plan and made the following suggestions: -

- The soft pour surfaces appear to have a limited lifetime; therefore it would be worth looking into the cost of replacing this with bark instead.
- The basketball court at New Road has proved to be very popular with older children; could this be something that may work in Otter Way?
- Other ideas for older children include a 'wavy road' for skateboarders and bikers, and outdoor gym equipment for Poets Field, Otter Way or New Road.
- Mary Champion to contact Longleaze School as the Town Council's representative, regarding the trees at the back of Poets Field play area.

RESOLVED: -

- To investigate the cost of replacing soft pour with bark. The costings for the bark at Poets Field could be looked into to give an estimate of the costs involved.
- To investigate the price of a basketball court for Otter Way Play Area.
- To investigate the cost of a 'Green Gym' for play areas such as Poets Field, Otter Way and New Road. Councillor Sue Hughes to photograph similar equipment at Nationwide.
- Liaise with Bromham Town Council regarding their recently installed 'wavy road'.

21. CEMETERY WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED to adopt the report on a meeting of the Cemetery Working Party held on Thursday 9th July 2015, copies previously circulated.

22. JUBILEE LAKE TEA ROOMS

On 17th July 2015 the Planning Department at Wiltshire Council granted permission for the Jubilee Lake Tea Rooms to remain in situ throughout the year.

The Council was asked to consider offering the proprietors half-price rental of the site from November to March, at a cost of £65 per month.

RESOLVED to offer half-price rental to the proprietors from November to March at a cost of £65 per month.

23. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES CONSULTATION

Wiltshire Council is undertaking a review of the public convenience service throughout the county as a result of the reduction in government funding. Wiltshire Council is in negotiations with a number of town and parish councils regarding the transfer of facilities, and is therefore asking all town and parish councils whether they would be interested in running the public conveniences in their areas.

The Committee was asked to consider the consultation document attached, copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to write back to Wiltshire Council explaining that the Town Council would be willing to enter into a dialogue about the possibility of taking over the public toilets as well as the loss-making car park at Boroughfields.

24. COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED to issue communications regarding the Wiltshire Council parking signs. The Town Council will be working to resolve the issue through Wiltshire Council's Parking Services department.