

## ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 7.30pm, in the Committee Room, Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, Ballards Ash, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion, Sue Doyle, Linda Frost, Janet Georgiou, Sue Hughes (late) and Mike Leighfield.

Also in Attendance: Councillors Paul Heaphy and Chris Wannell.

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

### 45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Wilks.

### 46. 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 there were no Declarations of Interest received.

### 47. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councillor Sue Hughes joined the meeting, 7.35pm.*

The Chairman made the following announcements: -

- Staff from the Grounds Maintenance Team have placed five planters around the Town Hall area, which appears to have reduced the problem of anti-social parking. Wiltshire Council had

previously been informed that the problem appeared to be at its worst during the evening, particularly on Thursday, Friday and at the weekend. Parking Attendants were therefore available in the town at these times, however in recent weeks this seems to have ceased. Members asked that Parking Services at Wiltshire Council be reminded that the issue is on-going albeit at a reduced rate, and that a request be made for attendants to continue to monitor the area for any vehicles parked in an anti-social manner.

- The Chairman informed the Committee that Royal Wootton Bassett has recently won another award in relation to its entry into South West in Bloom, attaining the maximum 5 stars in the Pride of Parks category for Jubilee Lake. The information boards around the lake were particularly praised, with the whole area being described as a 'jewel in the community', and an example of first class management with no signs of litter or dog fouling. The Committee praised the Grounds Maintenance Team for their on-going hard work in maintaining the high standard of the Jubilee Lake area, with the Pride of Parks award as testament to their efforts.
- The Chairman advised the Committee that the quotes for the new play area equipment had arrived, and reminded Members that S106 funds were being used for the repairs to the soft pour. RoSPA have identified areas of soft pour that require urgent repairs at Otter Way and New Road, the cost of which must be met by the Council.
- RoSPA also identified the long slide at New Road as requiring urgent attention due to steel deterioration. The Grounds Maintenance Team Leader is in receipt of a quotation for the replacement of the slide which would allow for the works to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. As the quotation received complies with the Town Council's Financial Regulation 3.4, there is no requirement to approach any further companies to price up the works.
- The Chairman advised the Committee that the Hounds running club will be taking part in the Clean for the Queen weekend over the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. A number of other local groups are also involved after contacting the Community Area Manager, however there appears to be a shortage of litter picking equipment for the number of people who would like to be involved. It was suggested that local businesses such as Rapid Hire be contacted in order to establish whether they would be able to donate or loan any equipment for the weekend.

#### **48. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (A/5/2015-2016), copy previously circulated.

#### **49. LITTER REPORT**

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

It was noted that two incidents in January required crime reference numbers; Members were advised that these included vehicle damage to a hanging basket column and apparent intentional damage to a bus shelter. Members asked that the Grounds Maintenance Team Leader add details such as those noted above to future reports through the addition of a further column in which to record the location and description of any incidents.

#### **50. PROJECT MANAGER – JUBILEE LAKE EROSION WORKS**

Members are aware that the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team identified issues regarding wave erosion to the banks of Jubilee Lake. Some preparatory work has been undertaken on the project with CH2M Hill (formerly the Halcrow engineering group), however CH2M Hill are no longer able to assist with the project as they normally undertake significantly larger schemes.

Enquiries were made to locate suitable replacement Project Managers; following recommendations made by the Department of the Environment two companies working in conjunction were identified. One company specialises in ecology, the other is an engineering company working within the ecological sector.

A meeting was held with representatives of the two companies on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016, and it had been hoped that they would be able to provide a fee proposal in time for the meeting.

Unfortunately, the fee proposal did not arrive on time to be discussed, therefore it was RESOLVED to defer this item until the earliest opportunity for a meeting of one of the Town Council's Standing Committees, which in this case would be the Revenue and Resources

meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

## **51. DISCUSSION ITEM – SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM**

South West in Bloom is part of the nationwide Britain in Bloom competition, which is the largest horticultural event in Europe, and encompasses projects to regenerate the local environment through floral displays, conservation, restoration and recycling, together with numerous other community based initiatives.

Royal Wootton Bassett entered the competition for the first time in 2015, achieving the award of silver-gilt. The Chairman introduced Naomi Coleman as the Lead Officer on the project, and the Committee congratulated her on the achievement of reaching silver-gilt status at the first attempt. The group organising this year's entry, Royal Wootton Bassett Community Together, are already looking at ways in which the success of the 2015 competition can be improved upon.

Members were therefore invited to share any ideas for the 2016 entry in to South West in Bloom.

The following points were raised: -

- This year the Royal Wootton Bassett Community Together group have decided to enter under the pennant category as before. The criteria for pennant category entries was circulated, which emphasised the community aspect of the project. A number of community groups and organisations have expressed an interest in becoming involved with the 2016 entry.
- The Chairman Councillor Linda Frost, explained that although the entry for 2016 is community driven, the support of the Town Council would be required in relation to street furniture, particularly on the High Street where the benches and bins would benefit from a coat of paint and general maintenance.
- The judges look at varying aspects of the town, not just the horticultural displays. It was therefore suggested that areas such as the rear of the M Local shop are cleaned up, and that the orchard near Sainsbury's is redeveloped for use as a community garden. This area is managed by Savills; therefore it was suggested that Roger Smith be contacted in relation to use of the orchard.

## 52. COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED to issue communications on: -

- The community involvement with the Clean for the Queen weekend.
- An article on recycling for the next issue of the Bulletin, reminding people to put a bungee or large rock on the lid of their recycle boxes in the high winds that have been prevalent this winter to prevent waste being blown around the streets, especially in the run up to the Royal Wootton Bassett Community Together event, which focuses on the town and community as a whole, and not just on the one day of judging.

*The meeting finished at 8.25pm*