

A/2/2016-2017

## **ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held during the course of the Council Meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 at Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

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

Also in Attendance: Councillors: Ian Ferries

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, and Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager.

### **4. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janet Georgiou and Steve Watts.

### **5. 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 received.

## **6. CHANGES TO WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CONTRACT**

Presentation received from Wiltshire Councillor Philip Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Highways, to update Members on the recent changes to the Wiltshire Council highways contract.

RESOLVED to email Philip's presentation to all members.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements: -

- (i) Land at Sparrow Lane – we are currently waiting for community asset transfer of the land which runs alongside the footpath in Sparrow Lane.

Also, the land behind Wootton Hall, which is owned by a lady in Cornwall, is for sale. This has been offered to the purchasers of Wootton Hall but they do not want it. It has been offered to the council at £25,000. We have expressed an interest, but only at this price. This piece of land together with the piece of land currently owned by Wiltshire Council would be a good investment for the Town Council for e.g. use as a community garden area/possible toilet site and if Wootton Hall was put up for sale again we would be in a good position to make an offer which would then give us a very useful piece of land.

- (ii) Request for access across a piece of land that we own at the tail end of the land acquired where the poppy is sited. The Town Council has been approached by Doug Hughes, Consultant Local Solicitor on behalf of an application from Christopher Fisher who has inherited the property Stillwater at Coped Hall from his grandmother. Christopher Fisher has obtained planning permission to build two dwellings in the rear garden of the property (Ref 15/09291/FUL). However, in order to implement the permission access is required across the land owned by the Council (all services are available on site so no service connections will be required across the Council land).

There are two options available to Mr. Fisher, either to obtain access from RWBTC or amend his plans and reapply to develop the site in a different way.

We are being asked to consider if the Council would be willing to grant an easement to Mr. Fisher and if so the terms on which such grant will be made.

RESOLVED to appoint Philip Loveday to make recommendations on both items and bring back to the Council.

#### **8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 3rd March 2016 (A/6/2015-2016), and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (A/1/2016-2017), copies previously circulated.

#### **9. LITTER REPORT**

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

RESOLVED to note the report.

#### **10. MEMORIAL BENCH SEAT – GEORGE SCARROTT**

Bridget Scarrott and her sons George and Ben would like to present a bench seat to the town of Royal Wootton Bassett in memory of the late George Scarrott. The chosen location for the seat would be outside the Dandelion shop on the High Street; this has been approved by the shop owner. The Parish of Lambourn has installed a seat of the same design, also in memory of Mr Scarrott, photographs of the Lambourn bench seat were previously circulated.

The Committee's instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to not place on the high street but offer alternative areas, as the street furniture must stay in keeping with the existing furniture:

- Old Court Play Area
- Showfield Play Area and to include a memorial garden near the bench
- Land at Sparrow Lane, if successful with the community asset transfer, noting that this should not compromise future development of the site

## **11. REPATRIATION ARCHIVING PROJECT**

To receive a report from Melanie Nicholls on the digitisation of the Repatriation Archives, copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to defer this item to another meeting, as members felt that the recommendation of Towns web was too expensive and would like more information.

## **12. PLAY AREA – FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman has asked that an item be placed on the agenda to encourage discussion for future development plans for the Town Council's children's play areas.

The schedule of outstanding S106 funding will be brought to the meeting.

The Committee was asked to discuss the future development of the Town Council's Play Areas.

The committee were advised that the Council currently has £73,000 of S106 funds to spend before early 2019 but can only be spent at four sites, Jacqui Woolford Memorial Park, Woodshaw Play Area, Poets field Play Area and Otter Way Play Area. If Council do not spend it, we will lose it back to the developers.

RESOLVED that members bring ideas to the next Amenities meeting or email Councillor Frost with ideas to investigate.

**13. 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.

**14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee is asked that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting to allow discussion of the establishment, property and finance matters as it is considered the publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.