

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held during the course of the Council Meeting on Thursday 8th September 2016 at Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Linda Frost, Janet Georgiou, Sue Hughes, Mike Leighfield, John Wilks.

Also in Attendance: Councillors: Paul Heaphy

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

16. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Champion and Sue Doyle.

17. 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 received.

18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave the following announcements: -

- The Town Council is currently organising the purchase of a parcel of land in Sparrow Lane, close to Wootton Hall. The full Council meeting in October will discuss the matter, which will cost £25,000 plus fees. It is hoped that this land, together with that acquired through an asset transfer, will allow the Town Council to own an area of land which could be used in the future.
- There is a parcel of green land in the middle of Jubilee Park, the Taylor Wimpey housing development, which is not cut on a regular basis and is still in the ownership of the developer. Wiltshire Council have been asked to adopt the land, however they have in turn approached the Town Council to enquire as to the possibility of the land being taken on. The land in question is subject to a commuted sum of £40,000, and will be discussed in more detail at the October full Council meeting. The Town Clerk will circulate a map to Members in the meantime.

19. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 2nd June 2016 (A/2/16-17). Copy previously circulated.

20. LITTER REPORT

The latest Vandalism and Litter Report was circulated to Members. It was noted that the removable bollard near to the Town Hall had been stolen and reported to the Police. The CCTV suite are currently looking into the matter to establish whether any evidence can be found.

Members mentioned the proliferation of rubbish that has been created by the Subway sandwich shop which is now open on the High Street. The litter bins nearest the premises are always full and overflowing as a result of the shop's popularity, although it was also noted that the level of litter is still significantly reduced from what it had been a decade ago, due in part to the introduction of CCTV cameras.

It was suggested that Subway be made aware that the packaging associated with their food was causing the bins to fill up rapidly, however it was also noted that Wiltshire Council appear not to be emptying the High Street bins as often as is required. The situation will continue to be monitored.

Subway have started using advertising boards which slot over the top of the bollards along the High Street. Wiltshire Council are aware of this matter and are investigating, noting the potential hazards associated with obscuring the bollards. In recent months, shops have started to increase the use of High Street advertising, particularly in relation to A boards, which Wiltshire Council are dealing with as an extension of the Subway advertising issue.

21. OTTER WAY FOOTPATH

Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the damage to the footpath at Otter Way.

The following points were raised: -

- The footpath has continued to crack despite repairs. Engineers have assessed the site and cannot find conclusive evidence to explain why this is happening.
- An arboriculturist is preparing a report to investigate whether the damage is being caused as a result of vegetation.
- As part of the ongoing investigations, the Council has commissioned a report into possible ground movement in the area. The investigative work is being overseen by the Council's architects, Aricab.
- In order to make the site safe, bitumen has been poured into the crack at the cost of the contractor. The area will continue to be made safe until the full nature of the problem can be understood, and a long term solution found.

22. 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 to issue communications on the ongoing investigations into the problem at Otter Way footpath and works that have been undertaken in order to make the area safe whilst the cause of the cracking is established.