

MINUTES (subject to approval at the next Committee meeting)
OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2013 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present: John Aldis (Convenor of Committee)
Chris Brine (Chair of Town Council)
Anthony Howarth
Carol Kambites
Gary Powell (Deputy Convenor of Committee)

In Attendance: Mrs Gill Jennings (Town Clerk)
Residents J Callinan, T Baker, M Freeman
Councillors Pam Swain, Theresa Watt
County Councillor Lesley Williams

J3/118 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Councillor Simon Lewis gave his apologies and these were accepted.

J3/119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the adopted Model Code of Conduct to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable.

None Declared.

J3/120 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2013

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th January 2013 need to be considered for approval.

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

J3/121 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT (15 minutes)

Members of the public may speak only once for a maximum of 5 minutes on any specific agenda item.

No questions were raised.

J3/122 STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

A progress report will be given.

This item moved for discussion later in the order of business.

J3/123 ALLOTMENTS

Vacant plots have now been offered to a number of people on the waiting list.

An inspection has been made by the Town Clerk.

6 vacant plots have been offered for re-let, 5 of which have been taken up – 4 tenants will be issued with final notice letters for not paying their rent and not working their plots.

1 tenant to be issued with a first notice letter – no sign of any work to plot. Generally plots were being tended and the soil was in good condition, and the footpaths tidy. The waiting list currently had 13 possible tenants which could be reduced by the 4 being issued with final notice.

J3/124 OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE

A report will be given on the capacity of existing equipment and the need to replace grass cutting equipment. 2 quotations for replacement grass cutting equipment and trailer are on hold pending a decision.

Whilst there were staffing issues the Clerk was investigating the possibility of moving the waste disposal and grass cutting onto contract. In the meantime a hand mower was required to replace the one which was broken. **The Committee agreed that the purchase could proceed up to a maximum budget of £1200.**

J3/125 RECREATION FACILITIES

Committee should consider the current use of the Pavilion and field, Stagholt and Magpies, the condition of the carpark and debate whether this is sustainable over the next 5 years, offering enough leisure amenity for all or whether improvements could be made. The Committee will be made aware of opportunities for S106 monies which with match funding might be used to improve the leisure offer.

The Committee were aware that the Pavilion was now largely used by the football clubs and did not provide an income to cover costs. The car park was in poor condition and the future of Magpies Social Club seemed uncertain. There seemed to be an opportunity for joined up thinking between the football and social clubs but also a need to assess the wider community need. Councillor Gary Powell explained that S106 monies had been allocated to Stonehouse but needed to be set against projects which met with developer criteria. Stroud District Council had suggested a joint project with Cainscross PC which developed Ryeford Field as a community orchard/picnic area. Councillor Pam Swain suggested that Laburnum might be developed with further play equipment and that it would also be possible to use some funding towards the Youth Building.

The Committee agreed that a Working Group should be set up to carry out a consultation exercise towards a draft 5 year plan.

J3/126 OLDEND LANE PLAYING FIELD – PAVILION

a. To consider the future refurbishment of the Pavilion. The Pavilion has been cleansed and redecorated. Councillors Powell and Howarth are to give their recommendations to the Committee regarding enhancements.

Before proceeding the Councillors requested a copy of the building plans.

b. To review the scale of charges

The Committee reviewed the scale of charges 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013 and decided to leave them as they were.

c. Unauthorised use of football pitches

The Committee were made aware of unauthorised use.

J3/127 DOVEROW WOOD

Tree Reports are to be obtained as a matter of urgency and are to be scheduled each year to fulfil landowner obligations. The wood could benefit from a scheme of improvement to increase the leisure offer. Committee are also asked if a commemorative seat in memory of the late Councillor Mrs Sue Latchford might be purchased and installed in the wood. Quotations are enclosed.

The Committee agreed to progress with obtaining a tree report from BJ Unwin at an approximate cost of £330 plus VAT.

Details of Victorian style seats had been obtained and the manufacturer had indicated he could match to existing seats if required. Councillor Brine felt that the wood was not a suitable place for a memorial seat and requested that one was purchased and installed on the Town Green next to the willow tree. **The Committee agreed this at a maximum cost of £650 with the prior agreement of Mr. Latchford.**

J3/122 STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Councillor Theresa Watt reported that volunteers would be planting the trees on the 8th March.

J3/128 POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPEN SPACES ON COURT VIEW DEVELOPMENT

No progress has been made with tree works due to personnel problems at Taylor Wimpey. In light of which the Town Council cannot proceed with adoption.

Councillor Theresa Watt reported that the tree works promised in December had not been carried out and felt they were unlikely to proceed until late Autumn 2013. **The Committee were still keen on taking over the maintenance of the area and asked the Clerk to make contact with Taylor Wimpey to that effect.** In the meantime Stroud Valleys Project are clearing the ponds.

J3/129 TOURISM

- a. The Committee are asked to consider a request by Stroud Valley Canals to assist with their canals maintenance plan by the Town Council maintaining the grassed area at Ocean (1 cut per month). They also need somewhere to store equipment.

A report of a meeting with Dave Marshall and Ian Edwards of Stroud District Council was circulated. The Committee were reluctant to commit to further expenditure on grass cutting and could not see the point of offering equipment storage so far from the canal. It was likely that Stroud District Council were trying to move some canal maintenance costs to the parish and town councils and the exact commitment in terms of money would need to be assessed.

- b. Having made a Community Right to Bid for the Ship Inn Site the Committee need to consider the next steps.

The Town Council's request that the Ship Inn Site be put on the Community Asset Register has been rejected by Stroud District Council.

J3/130 STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM

Cllr. Gary Powell gave a report on the arrangements for the coming season. He would be able to purchase the same amount of plants as last year within budget. In the meantime he asked the Committee to agree to the removal of the wrought iron fence by The Globe. **Since it was in a bad state of repair the Committee agreed that Councillor Powell could remove it.**

J3/131 ACCOUNTS 2012/13

To review expenditure and income to the end of January 2013.

The Committee considered the rolling totals to the end of January and had no questions.

J3/132 CORRESPONDENCE

1. A survey has been conducted by Stroud District Council on allotment/open space/recreation provision in the Stroud District. A report will be obtained on completion.
2. Resident Mr. Callinan raised a complaint regarding the condition of Footpath MST18 which crosses farmland at Stanley Downton Farm. The complaint was that agricultural vehicles had churned up the footpath to the extent that it was impassable by foot, also that a pile of slurry threatened to enter the watercourse, and a bull prevented access to the field. This complaint was referred to Glos. County Rights of Way who stated the landowner was within his rights to keep livestock on the land and make movements in and out of the gateway. With regard to the watercourse this has been examined and there was no visible sign of leakage into the watercourse but this would be monitored for reference to the Environment Agency if necessary. The Clerk has written to the landowner asking for his/her comments.

J3/132 Correspondence (continued)

3. Councillor Carol Kambites reported that the Adopt a Station project was receiving a lot of interest. She had met with the Station Manager who was enthusiastic about the idea of planters and signage, and she was made aware of the Severnside Rail Community Partnership who help communities adopt their stations. Gloucestershire County Council is not part of the partnership. To further the aims of the project and form a working group a public meeting needs to be held. She advised the Committee that the station would get a new waiting room and ticket office.
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