

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held in the Large Hall of the Town Hall, Calne on Monday 20 October 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Ms H E Canfer– Town Mayor (Ex-officio)
Councillor H R Marshall – Deputy Town Mayor (Ex-officio)
Councillor G P Widger - **Chair**
Councillor C M R Boase – **Vice-Chair**
Councillor D I Conway
Councillor D J Davies (*Substitute for Councillor Dr Reid*)
Councillor S Denley
Councillor P M Redmond
Councillor P A B Venton (6.20 pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor A J Trotman (6.32 pm)
Councillor D L Warnett

OFFICERS: Mrs L A Roberts – Town Clerk
Mrs A C Cawkwell – Finance & Committee Officer

31/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mrs Baggs and Councillor Dr Reid who was substituted by Councillor Davies.

32/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

33/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 1 September 2014, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34/14 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The report of the Support Services Manager, which is attached to and forms part of these minutes, was discussed by members and the following points were raised:

- The Town Mayor, Councillor Ms Canfer, informed members that on site meetings had taken place with the Allotment Holders and Chippenham allotment members in response to concerns over the Town Council's decision to remove the compost bins. Another meeting is scheduled to take place on 1 November to hear of any other concerns and to continue with the dialogue set in place.
- The creation of a financial reserve for the Beversbrook allotment site was considered to be a very good idea, to cover non routine maintenance or renewals.
- There is already an earmarked reserve for the allotments in place for £5,031.

- If the reserve reached a level which was considered in excess of what was required, the Amenities Committee could consider putting these funds towards another project or transferring them to general reserves.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Denley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the creation of a Reserve Fund to be used for non-standard repairs and renewals at Beversbrook Allotments and that this Reserve Fund should be monitored to ensure it is kept at a reasonable level.

35/14 CEMETERY LAND

The report of the Support Services Manager, which is attached to and forms part of these minutes, was discussed by members and the following points were raised:

- A question was raised over whether the environment agency would know of any suitable land for a cemetery, however, it is impossible to establish the condition of the land until the drainage has been assessed and this will result in the same problem.
- The whole of the area is blue clay and sand which would cause a big problem with drainage.
- There is a possibility that every site identified could result in a financial outlay of around £6,000 to carry out the drainage investigation, only to fail and return back to the same point each time. There was a need to find someone with the skills and knowledge to identify suitable sites in the area, and who knows what the criteria are.
- As a Town Council we are obligated to provide burial land. Investigations to find land had been progressing for a while and this site was identified as the best option.
- If the land is not suitable due to its drainage another way must be found, perhaps to investigate installing the necessary drainage for the site.
- It was established that there was potential usage of a maximum of ten years and a minimum of five years left of the existing Curzon Street Cemetery land.
- Other options for consideration are; that the land does not necessarily have to be in Calne and other Councils are burying four deep.
- The Town Clerk suggested that the issue could be used when discussing Section 106 funding with the developers. The Section 106 monies could be apportioned to the provision of land for a new cemetery, the onus being on the developer to prove the land is suitable.

It was proposed by Councillor Widger, seconded by Councillor Redmond and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to request Messrs Humberts to advise the land owners that the Town Council do not wish to proceed with the option of purchasing land at Greenacres Way and, if possible, identify any other land in the area which may be used as a Cemetery.

36/14 BOWLS CLUB PAVILION

The recommendation from the Finance Working Group was discussed by members and the following points were raised:

- The £5,000 was required to release the £35,000 of grant funding for this project. If costs are kept under £35,000 the £5,000 will not need to be spent.

- The Town Council own the land and the Pavilion and as long as the asbestos reports etc do not highlight any areas of concern, only a small part of the £5,000 should be required.
- The quotation for the project is £40,000, provided the asbestos survey comes back clear.
- For those Councillors who are not on the Finance Working Group there is very little background information included in order for them to make a decision. The Town Clerk explained the background behind this request for members' information.
- It was pointed out that the Council had already committed £1,666.50 to this project and that proof will be provided if the replacement of the pavilion cannot be done within the £35,000 already found for the project.
- We will own the land and the Pavilion, if it falls down we will be liable for the replacement costs.
- The Bowls Club cover all their maintenance costs.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Boase and

RESOLVED

- 1) that an amount of £5,000 is made available in next year's budget (2015/2016) for the replacement of the Bowls Pavilion project, this will secure the £35,000 grant funding which has already been awarded towards the project.
- 2) this will be on the understanding that proof is provided that the replacement of the pavilion cannot be done within the £35,000 already found for the project.

37/14 TOWN HALL WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 September 2014 were noted by members.

38/14 BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 September 2014 were noted by members.

39/14 CASTLEFIELDS CANAL AND RIVER PARK ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 were noted by members.

With reference to Minute Number 7, Mound Walls, a question was raised concerning why Hills needed to alter the Section 106 agreement to pay for the Mound Wall. In response the Town Clerk informed that the current agreement does not allow the funding to be used to reinstate the Castlefields Wall. She is working closely with Wiltshire Council's legal team to agree wording which is based on improvement and Capital Works, and reinstatement of the wall in a conservation area.

40/14 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The **Confidential Minutes** of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 1 September 2014, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The meeting closed at 6.43 pm