

Minutes – subject to acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee – to be held on Monday 6th February 2012

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present: Councillors J Aldis (Convenor of Committee)
S Lewis (Vice Chair of Town Council)
A Howarth
Mrs C Kambites
G Powell (Deputy Convenor of Committee)

In Attendance: Councillor Mrs T Watt (part)
R A Lacey – Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillor C Brine (Chair of Town Council)

H3/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their obligation, within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct, to declare any personal or prejudicial interest where applicable.

Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) declared a possible interest in item H3/39 (Adoption of Arrowsmith Drive) as a result of residency.

H3/36 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2011

It is necessary for the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24th October 2011 to be considered for approval.

Following consideration Members present Resolved to approve the Minutes as recorded.

H3/37 UPDATE OF MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Allotments

- i) The Allotment Tenants' Association have indicated that they feel that inspections of the plots should not be carried out in December and January due to the winter season conditions.

Members present agreed that inspections would not be necessary during the months indicated by the Allotment Tenants' Association.

- ii) It was suggested by a Member at the last full Town Council Meeting that the Committee might like to discuss further provision of allotments.

Members present discussed the perceived demand which currently stood at a Waiting List of 16. Members present agreed that it was important to try to meet such demand and discussed other areas such as Glen Court, Cotswold Green and Stagholt.

Continued -

H3/37 Update of Matters Arising (continued)

a) **Allotments** (cont'd)

ii) **The Town Clerk was requested to investigate how much space could be released from the playing field to accommodate extra allotment plots after firstly satisfying the requirements of existing users of that land.**

b) **Progress Check on Previously Agreed Committee Actions**

A copy of the progress check list agreed at the last Committee meeting is attached for further consideration.

Members present considered the Committee actions and amendments were noted as per attached list.

c) **Youth Strategy**

i) **Members of the Working Group may wish to update the Committee on the progress of the Young Gloucestershire arrangements.**

Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) confirmed to Members present that Young Gloucestershire were currently running sessions in the car park, POD and bus on Friday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Two helpers, Dom Smith and Lou Fell, were proving to be invaluable in this respect.

It is noted that the current contract expires at the end of March 2012 and a review will be held in February to discuss extension and enhancing the scheme.

ii) **Members may also wish to discuss further initiatives such as the Youth Forum.**

Members present were advised that the Youth Forum had held its first meeting and a second session was planned for the 8th December 2011. It was encouraging to note that ideas were already coming forward from the young people.

The APT Central youth facility was still continuing to grow thanks to the ministrations of Odele Harding and her team and Gloucestershire County Council have advised that they have a Youth Service support team working in the area but details of this are unclear.

Mark Stapleton, from Gloucestershire County Council, is planning to meet young people at APT Central to discuss and work on a project for a skate park.

iii) **It has been suggested that Wycliffe College may wish to approach the Town Council for support in offering work experience for students engaged on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Members may wish to discuss this in principal.**

Members present were unclear as to what format the work experience would take in this respect and Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) agreed to contact Wycliffe College to discuss this before presenting to Committee once more.

Continued -

c) Youth Strategy (cont'd)

The Town Clerk advised Members present of a letter received on 24th November 2011 from Mr David Barnes, the architect acting on behalf of the new owners of the former Church Hall/Youth Centre in Elm Road. Members discussed the content of this communication which appeared to favour siting any new youth facility on an alternative site rather than that suggested by the Town Council in response to a previous letter from the developer.

In response to Mr Barnes letter Members present instructed the Town Clerk to reply noting a concern at the loss of the Youth Centre site and facilities. They expressed disappointment that there appeared to be no way forward on the current site and would therefore now wait to see a Notice of Appeal for a revised application from the developers.

Having asked Councillor Mrs Watt to join the Committee for the Youth Strategy item, Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) invited her to speak. Councillor Mrs Watt was concerned to clarify details in respect of the Youth Partnership which appeared to be allied to Stonehouse Town Council but not belonging to it. The question being whether this was a Partnership responsibility or Town Council but regardless of this there needs to be a lot of thought on the constitution so that appropriate bids can be placed for funding. Councillor Mrs Watt felt that the Town Council should make the grant application in the first instance and would liaise with the Town Clerk accordingly.

d) Possible Adoption of Open Spaces on Court View Development

Re: Minute Nos. H3/21(d) of 19.9.11; H3/12(d) of 25.7.11; H3/04(d) of 13.6.11; G3/68(e) of 18.4.11; G3/62(e) of 7.3.11.

Members will be advised that Stroud District Council have carried out, through a Leyhill Prison party, clearance of one of the railway cutting pools to great effect. The detailed Action Plan is currently being worked on by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and should hopefully be complete by the end of the week commencing 12th December. At that point a further group meeting will be arranged to examine the implications of the report.

Members present regarded this as a matter of report.

e) Oldend Lane Playing Field

i) **Car Park - Re: Minute No. H3/38 of 24.10.11.**

Following the Committee's initial consideration of a suggested plan of the car park area to include use by a commercial vehicle training company Members may wish to discuss whether this is considered viable in light of youth provision aspirations for this site or others in the Town (e.g. former Church Hall building).

Members present discussed the viability and desirability of allowing part of the car park to be used for driver instruction under the Government Driving Standards Agency. Concern was raised regarding the compatibility of such instructions and the public right of way from the car park onto Oldend Lane Playing Field.

Considerable discussion ensued including the possible financial consideration for such activity. The Town Clerk advised Members present that the Driving Standards Agency had carried out a preliminary visit to the site, as with other sites in the area, and had not yet formulated an offer, if such was going to be made.

H3/37 e) i) Continued -

The Town Clerk requested Members present to consider whether any objections to the scheme would warrant notification to the Driving Standards Agency and the commercial vehicle training company (who had suggested the scheme) that there was a need to withdraw from further investigation. Members present were unable to make a decision in this respect and preferred to wait to see if a formal offer comes through from the D.S.A.

ii) **Dog Fouling Consultation**

Members will be aware of the problems caused by dog fouling on Oldend Lane Playing Field as well as other areas in the Town. Members may wish to discuss the current consultation, a resident's comments as attached and the consultation process being undertaken by Stroud District Council (refer to www.stroud.gov.uk/dog/)

Members present discussed the issue of dog fouling which affected this and other Parishes across the country and decided that a formal response should be made by this Council. The Town Clerk was therefore instructed to send an e:mail to Members requesting them to consider the consultation document as issued by Stroud District Council. All responses should be forwarded to the Town Clerk so that he could collate them and communicate accordingly to the District Council.

f) **H.M. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012**

Re: Minute No. H3/39 of 24.10.11.

Following the Committee decision to form a small Working Group to co-ordinate the lighting of a beacon on Monday 4th June 2012 Members may wish to discuss how they wish to move forward with this.

Members present were advised that Councillors Brine (Chair of Town Council), Mrs Latchford (Convenor of the Regeneration & Environment Committee) and Govier had already consented to be part of the Working Group in respect of the beacon. Members present were also advised of the Government initiative in respect of nominating green areas under Town Council control to become Queen Elizabeth II fields. Member present were broadly in agreement with this principle providing that the areas currently controlled, and in Trust, to Stonehouse Town Council were legally able to be designated as such. Councillor Lewis (Vice Chair of Town Council) agreed to speak to the Town Clerk in more depth about this possibility and report to the next Committee meeting.

H3/38 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2011**

Members may wish to comment on the Goodwill Fest and Christmas lights switch-on held on 26th November 2011.

Members present were encouraged by the Goodwill Fest and were advised that a debrief meeting was planned to be held on 6th December 2011. It appeared that the afternoon timing of the event worked very well and was welcomed by traders and participants generally. The light switching-on ceremony had not been as successful and the causes would be investigated.

There was uncertainty about whether the road closure (a) worked and (b) was really necessary and this would be discussed at the debrief meeting. It was gratifying to hear that some stalls had run out of stock during the afternoon.

H3/39 ADOPTION REQUEST FOR ARROWSMITH DRIVE

Members will be advised that Persimmon Homes, the current owners of this site, have asked for talks to open to discuss possible adoption. Members may wish to discuss.

As a result of a possible interest declared in H3/35 Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) took no part in this item and Chairmanship was temporarily transferred to Councillor Powell (Deputy Convenor of Committee).

The Town Clerk advised Members present that he had been contacted by Persimmon Homes, the owners of the site, with a request that the Town Council considers adoption. The Town Clerk briefed Members on the history of the site and after discussion it was decided that he should look at the options available in this respect and report back to Committee accordingly.

H3/40 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

The renewal request for 2012 has been received for £100 as in the previous year and Members may wish to consider renewing accordingly.

Members present were content to renew the subscription for the year 2012 for £100.

H3/41 STAFFING

Members will be appraised of the current situation by the Staff Working Group.

Councillor Lewis (Vice Chair of Town Council and a member of the Staffing Working Group) advised Members present that the Group had not met since the last Committee meeting. However, a report on the next Group meeting, scheduled for 12th December 2011, will be given to the Committee accordingly.

H3/42 STAFF OBJECTIVE SETTING

At the last full Town Council meeting the Chair advised Members that he would place an item on each Committee Agenda for consideration to be given to setting objectives for staff for inclusion within the Appraisal Strategy.

Members present discussed the objectives for staff as requested by the Chair of the Town Council. Members present felt that due investigations should continue on a possible allotment site to satisfy need, the sealing of the Meadow Road Playing Field site at its perimeter and the painting of motorcycle inhibitors at the same location.

H3/43 BUDGET 2012/13

Members must now give detailed consideration to this Committee's budget proposals for the financial year 2012/13 prior to Recommendation to the Finance & Strategy Committee.

Members present discussed the budget for 2012/2013 and were satisfied that the stand still figures presented by the Responsible Financial Officer met with their requirements.

It was noted that any provisions for allotments should be allocated from Reserves.

Members present wished to present to the Town Council, through the Finance & Strategy Committee, a proposal that a further £15,000 should be allocated for youth services and Recommended their budget on that basis. The Precept request from the

H3/43 Budget 2012/2013 (continued)

Amenities, Recreation & Tourism is therefore declared as £96,070 (£111,520 expenditure less £15,450 income).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.
