

# **FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

The Corn Exchange, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



## **Minutes of a Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Andrew Marsden (Chair)  
Julie Farmer  
David price

**In Attendance:** Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

### **1/2/15 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Jane Boulton, Mark Greenwood and Karen Draper

### **2/2/15 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **3/2/15 Minutes of Last Meeting: Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The Minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

### **4/2/15 Items for Information Only**

The Clerk informed the committee:

- The Leisure Services staff had now completed training on playground checks and MRH Services for quarterly check had been cancelled with an appropriate saving from the budget.
- All 'Dog Bins' now rebranded as general waste bins and being emptied for free saving giving further savings from the budget
- Town Park benches were now repaired and would be stained shortly

### **5/2/15 Public Speaking Time**

No members of the public were present

### **6/2/15 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

### **7/2/15 Financial Report**

The committee received a financial report of income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. This was NOTED.

### **8/2/15 Christmas Lights 2015**

The Committee received and NOTED Christmas Lights working party minutes held 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The Clerk informed the committee that we were still awaiting the final bill for Christmas Lights 2015 and a quote to install a ring main in London Street.

### **9/2/15 Leisure Services Report**

Phil Matson had expressed extreme concern regarding the grass cutting equipment. The domestic mower we have will not cut the Churchyard grass so the Leisure Services Assistant has to use a strimmer, which should not be used for prolonged periods. He felt this was a Health and Safety concern which must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

It was proposed that a recommendation be made to Finance to purchase the necessary equipment. Given the urgency the Clerk would liaise with the Mayor, acting Committee Chair and Finance Chairman to enable a suitable mower to be purchased as soon as possible. This was seconded and AGREED.

### **10/2/15 Allotments**

1. Members received and NOTED a report from the Assistant Town Clerk highlighting the following:
  - 5 payments were outstanding
  - Income for the year currently stands at £885
  - There are currently 27 people on the waiting list
2. Water Rates - The committee had received a letter from the treasurer of the Faringdon Allotment Society stating that it had been recommended to the Society committee that they accept the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee offer of a 25% contribution towards the cost of water and a 25% contribution to repairs to the supply. This was NOTED.

### **11/2/15 Town Council Van**

Members received and considered a quote for the leasing of a new van.

Members felt that the van quoted for was too small. Cllr. Price suggested that the Council needed a 4 wheel drive, flatbed truck with a 1 tonne payload. It was further proposed the Clerk obtain quotes for a vehicle with this specification and present them to committee for discussion. This was seconded and CARRIED.

### **12/2/15 Strategic Working Party Recommendations**

1. Three Year Management Plan for R&OS  
Members considered an outline plan. It was proposed that it would be more appropriate for this matter to be DEFERRED to the next meeting for discussion by the new committee. This was AGREED.

2. Maintenance Plan for R&OS for 2015/16  
Members were informed that the Leisure Services Staff were in the process of compiling a plan which would be presented to the next meeting for discussion.
3. Review R&OS Committee Terms of Reference  
Members considered the revised terms of reference. It was proposed that they be presented at the first meeting of the new committee for final approval. This was AGREED.

**13/2/15 All Saints Church Yard**

The committee received and considered a request to relay a path diagonally across the church yard. It was proposed that it should be suggested members of the public use the newly laid main entrance path to the church and that this 'short cut' path be allowed to grow over and reform part of the church yard. This was AGREED.

**14/2/15 Oakwood Park**

Members received and considered a report regarding a residents concerns about damage caused, possibly by balls, to a fence alongside the park.

It was proposed that the Clerk investigate further who owns the fence as the committee would need to plan provision in the maintenance plan if it was their responsibility. This was AGREED.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the information as soon as possible and call an extraordinary meeting to further discuss the immediate actions.

The committee also considered putting a no ball games sign in the park at the request of a resident. It was proposed that a sign not be erected as children should be allowed to play freely in the park. This was seconded and CARRIED.

**15/2/15 Play Surface Bark**

The Clerk reported that bark is currently stored at FAZE and there are concerns about where it is located as its location at present allows youngster to use it to climb on the roof and therefore it should be relocated as a matter of urgency.

It was proposed that the Leisure Services staff relay the play surfaces on both Tuckers Park and Oakwood Park and any remaining bark be moved away from the buildings. This was seconded and CARRIED.