

FARINGDON TOWN **COUNCIL**

The Corn Exchange, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

Telephone 01367 240281 Fax 01367 240303

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 November 2014 at 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT:

Cllrs Karen Draper (Chairman)
Ian Bell
Jane Boulton
Julie Farmer
Andrew Marsden

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Carolyn Murphy, Faringdon Elms
Tennis Association (up to and incl
Min 60/14)**
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

57/14 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received.

58/14 Minutes of Meeting: Wednesday, 15 October 2014

Cllr Jane Boulton pointed out that although she had attended the meeting on the 15 October, her name had not been included on the list of members present. Following amendment, the Minutes were signed as a correct record.

59/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman proposed that the item dealing with The Elms Tennis Court Association be moved forward for discussion at this stage of the meeting in order that the representative could leave early. This proposal was AGREED.

60/14 The Elms Tennis Court Association

A written report on the current activities of the Faringdon Elms Tennis Association was tabled by Carolyn Murphy. It was NOTED that currently there are 11 key holders and that the court has been advertised on the Faringdon Community Website and the LTA casual play website. It was AGREED that Carolyn would forward publicity material to the Town Council that could be included on the Town Council website.

Carolyn asked the committee to give permission for the following proposals:

- (a) new posts to be installed as the current ones have corroded. This would be on the basis that the tennis court association would purchase these and arrange for a local builder to install them. AGREED by committee.
- (b) The tennis court association was also proposing to get the surface cleaned professionally with the correct equipment and obtain advice on resurfacing, if required. It was AGREED that quotes would be brought back by the Association to the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee for its next meeting.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the association has public liability cover until June 2015. It would be looking into volunteer liability with the insurance company and it was AGREED that any information on this issue would be forwarded for the Town Council.

61/14 Action List

The Deputy Town Clerk's list of actions undertaken as a result of previous committee meeting held on 15 October 2014 was received and NOTED, as follows:-

Min No.	Action	Person/s Delegated	Action Taken
54/15	Public to be made aware of all the work carried out by FTC on its outdoor spaces.	Deputy Town Clerk	Article in the Faringdon Newsletter Autumn 2014 ed. and also on FTC website.
55/14	Quotes to be obtained from overhaul of seesaw in Tuckers Park	Leisure Services Team	Quotes obtained and will form part of the budget 2015/16 discussion.

61/14 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

62/14 Public Speaking Time

There were no members of public present.

63/14 Christmas Lights 2014

- (a) A progress report was given by the Town Clerk and it was NOTED that the lights would shortly be installed in time for the switch on due to take place on 29 November. As some of the current lights were old and not in a good state, and due to the lack of funding in the budget, it had been agreed that some lights would not be hung this year;
- (b) A letter dated 11 November 2014 was received from Faringdon Electrical regarding responsibilities for services provided. It was AGREED that Town Council would accept responsibility for the two items outlined and that a letter should be written to Faringdon Electrical Services accordingly.

64/14 Allotments

A written report was received from the Assistant Town Clerk. It was NOTED that the remaining 2 empty allotments had now been offered and accepted and that as of 31 October 2014 all useable plots had been rented out and paid for.

64/14 Quarterly Play Area Service Inspections - October 2014

Written quarterly reports were received and considered.

In view of concerns surrounding some of the equipment in Oakwood Park and the fact that the cradle swings in Tucker Park needed attention due to splits in the seats, it was AGREED that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would visit both sites together with a member of the Town Council's Leisure Services team in order to view the areas which the inspector had strongly recommended should be repaired.

It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that authority be delegated to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk to approve costs within the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee 2014/15 budget in order that the appropriate repairs could be carried out.

65/14 VWHDC Open Space, Local Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy

District Council has advised that Nortoft, a specialist consultancy, has been appointed jointly by VWHDC and South Oxfordshire District Councils to undertake an Open Space, Local Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy. Nortoft was seeking contact details for persons or organisations responsible for village halls/community centres, playing fields, tennis courts (public use) allotments and children's playgrounds and it was AGREED that Town Council would forward these, where possible, as well as asking other local groups to contact Nortoft. A copy of the letter had already been passed to the Elms Tennis Court Association.

66/14 Precept 2015/16

Following consideration of the draft budget, it was AGREED the following amendments should be made:

(a) *Revenue Budget*

- Maintenance of Open Spaces to be increased from £300 to £500 to include tree survey;
- Maintenance of Play Equipment to be increased from £500 to £1000;
- Dog Fouling Waste Costs to be reduced from £1350 to £1100 (provision of dog bags to be stopped as these were expensive and were generally misused by members of the public);
- Play equipment inspections to be reduced from £350 to £105 (As a system of weekly inspections was already carried out by the Leisure Services team which reported to the office if there were any problems, it was AGREED there was no need for quarterly inspections as well as the annual inspection carried out by the Rosa inspector);
- Christmas Lights to be increased from £4000 to £6000

Total Revenue Expenditure: £14945

(b) *Capital Expenditure*

- Add Play Surface (rubberised) for all parks £12000
(Oakwood first priority)
- Add new grass cutter £ 1900

Total Capital Expenditure:

£ 1900
£ 13900

Allotments

It was NOTED that currently the water bills for the allotments are sent out by Thames Water to the Faringdon Allotment Society (FAS) and that these costs are subsequently split 50/50 between the FAS and the Town Council.

In view of the recent high water rates and the fact that the FAS has far more allotment plots than the Town Council, it was AGREED that the water rates should be split proportionate to the number of allotments that each organisation had and that the FAS should be approached accordingly.