

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, 5 Market Place, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL
Telephone 01367 240281 www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Sally Thurston



**Minutes of a Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon.**

PRESENT: **Cllrs. Jane Boulton** **Chairman**
 Al Cane
 Andrew Marsden
 Mike Wise
 Kiera Bentley

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

- 1/5/16 Apologies for Absence**
Cllrs. David Barron and Mark Greenwood. Carolyn Murphy, Elms Tennis Court
- 2/5/16 Declarations of Interest**
None were made at this time.
- 3/5/16 Minutes of Last Meeting**
The minutes from the meeting of 20th July 2016 were signed as a correct record.
- 4/5/16 Public Question Time**
None
- 5/5/16 Public Speaking Time**
None
- 6/5/16 Items for Information Only**
Members were informed that:
- Signs for parks have been ordered and will be delivered next week
 - Churchyard maintenance agreement been sent to solicitor for advice
- 7/5/16 Elms tennis court**
Members NOTED an update
- 8/5/16 Willes Close Triangle**
a) Members were informed that the Sensory Garden Group wants access to site for surveys etc and had requested to install a new padlock and give the council a key.
This was AGREED
- b) Members considered drafting a 25 year lease for the Willes Close triangle to the Sensory Garden Project. The councils solicitor had recommended that a budget of £500 + VAT would be required for the lease. The Sensory Garden Project had agreed to pay 50% of any legal costs. It was PROPOSED that a recommendation be

made to Finance that a lease be drafted with a view to completion in early 2017. This was AGREED.

9/5/16

Finance

- a) Members NOTED a half year financial report
- b) Members considered capital projects for the 2016 / 2017 financial year. It was PROPOSED that a project to improve the London Street Christmas Light Infrastructure be put forward. This was AGREED.

10/5/16

Christmas Lights 2016

- a) Members received and considered quotes for the essential updating of electrical infrastructure in the Pump House. It was PROPOSED that a recommendation be made to finance that the Faringdon Electrical quote be accepted and £1816.28 be released from the replacement fund to complete these necessary works.
- b) Members were informed that a request from Faringdon Rotary Club that FTC take over the installation of small trees in the town had been withdrawn for this year.
- c) Members received an update on the Christmas lights display for 2016. Three further strings would be repaired and installed in London Street. New strings would need to be purchased for Marlborough Street next year to bring the display up to full strength. This was NOTED.

11/5/16

Open Spaces

- a) Members received and NOTED a health and safety report and actions.
- b) Members received and NOTED updates on the following open spaces:
 - I. Allotments – no issues.
 - II. Tuckers Play area - Still having some issues with vandalism and rubbish being left.
 - III. All Saints Church Yard - Tree work has started to take place
 - IV. Town park - Hole in fence recently mended.
 - V. Oakwood Park - Dogs being walked in park – No dogs notice now been made clearer replaced
 - VI. Portwell - Seat to be cleaned and sealed on 10/11/2016
 - VII. Telephone Boxes
 - Infant school – Uniform swap is being organised.
 - Town Centre – teenage book swap with rotakids has been a success, this is being replaced with an adult book swap in November

12/5/16

Oakwood Park Rubber Surface

- a) It was PROPOSED that a grant offer of £4546 from VWHDC be accepted. This was AGREED.
- b) Members considered quotes for the installation of rubber safety surfacing in Oakwood play area. It was PROPOSED that the Playdale quote of £12,196 be accepted. This was AGREED. A recommendation should be made to Finance that the £2,000 held in earmarked reserves be released so the project can be completed. This was AGREED.

13/5/16

Willow Workshops and structure

Members received a request from Faringdon Children's Centre to hold willow workshops and create a willow structure in the Town Park. This was AGREED.

14/5/16

Equipment

- a) Members received and considered quotes for a replacement leaf blower. It was PROPOSED that a leaf blower at £149.99 be purchased from Screwfix using the rec equipment budget. This was AGREED.
- b) Members received and considered quotes for a replacement strimmer. It was PROPOSED that a recommendation be made to Finance and Audit that £554 be released from the replacement fund to purchase a strimmer. This was AGREED.

15/5/16

Tidy Team

- a) Members received an update on the success of the Town Council Tidy Team who have carried out tidying work in the town this year, using the small increase in the 2016/17 precept. This was NOTED with thanks.
- b) Members received a resident's suggestion to spray weeds in the town center. Members were informed that no staff members were currently trained to carry out this work. It was felt that a town council staff member should be trained in weed spraying as this would be useful in open space maintenance. This matter could then be discussed further at a future meeting. This was AGREED.

16/5/16

Playground Safety

Members discussed ways in which playground safety could be improved following recent vandalism. Members felt that CCTV was not the answer at this time. Council checks should continue. It was PROPOSED that the situation be carefully monitored and discussed at the next meeting if necessary. This was AGREED.