

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Wednesday January 7th 2015 at 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. Karen Draper (Chair)
Ian Bell
Julie Farmer
Andrew Marsden

In Attendance: Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

1/1/15 Apologies for Absence
Cllrs Jane Boulton, Mark Greenwood and David Price

2/1/15 Declarations of Interest
None

3/1/15 Minutes of Last Meeting: 19th November
The Minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4/1/15 Items for Information Only
None

5/1/15 Public Speaking Time
No members of the public were present

6/1/15 Public Question Time
No questions were received.

7/1/15 Action List

Min No.	Action	Person/s Delegated	Action Taken
65/14	Forward details to VWHDC for Open Space, Local Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy	Deputy Town Clerk	VWHDC already held details of clubs and societies

8/1/15

2015/16 Budget

1. Members considered ranking capital spending in order of importance following a request from the Finance and Audit Committee.
The following order was proposed and seconded:
 1. Lawn Mower @ £1,900
 2. Rubberised Play surface for all parks @ £12,000This was CARRIED
2. Members considered further amendments to the final revenue budget.
 - Members discussed the Dog Fouling Waste costs. Although this had been reduced with the removal of dog waste bags it was felt that further savings could be made as Dog Waste could now be disposed of in general waste. It was proposed that the Clerk investigate the possible savings if current dog bins were replaced with general waste bins. These savings should be discussed at the next meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED.
 - It was proposed that the increase in the Christmas Lights budget be discussed further during item 10. This was seconded and CARRIED.

9/1/15

Leisure Services Report

A report from Leisure Services team was received and NOTED.

The report highlighted the following:

- Benches from the Town Park had been sent for repair.
- New swing seats had been ordered.
- Quotes for seesaw on Tuckers Park still outstanding.
- Poo bags are being taken in large numbers from Tuckers Park

10/1/15

Christmas Lights 2014

The Town Clerk reported the following regarding the Christmas Light display 2014:

- A successful display throughout the period. One incident where a member of the public climbed the tree was dealt with quickly. The member of the public had been issued with an invoice for the cost of repairs. It was suggested that if any damage was incurred in the future an administration fee was added to the invoice.
- Christmas Light Contractor was efficient and easy to work with.
- Lights are now disconnected and down and will be stored in the Pump House Cellar.
- Electrical repairs will need to be made before next year in the Pump House.
- A debrief meeting with the Christmas Lights Working Party and the Contractor would be held in February when the final bills had been received.

The committee discussed moving the £1,500 increase in revenue budget for Christmas Lights to capital expenditure. It was felt that it would be difficult to reduce the budget without the final figures for this year's display, which were still outstanding. Members also felt that reducing the budget in previous years had had a detrimental effect causing a scaled down display this year. It was proposed that the revenue budget for Christmas lights remain at £6,000. This was seconded and CARRIED.

11/1/15

Allotments

1. The Clerk reported that all Allotments are currently let. This was NOTED.
2. Water Rates
 - i) A letter from Faringdon Allotment Society regarding the water bill split was received and NOTED.
 - ii) The Clerk informed members that the Allotment Society currently have 118 allotments where by the Council have 35. The Town Council pay 50% of the water costs. A 75/25 split in the bill and maintenance costs would be more representative of the differential in plot numbers.
The allotment society believe that a 50/50 split is fair as this was previously agreed. In addition, the council are saving administration costs and maintenance charges.

After lengthy discussion it was proposed that the Clerk investigate the following points further:

- Get a copy of the original agreement
- Contact Thames Water and ask about supply and rules
- Cost of separate water supply

This was seconded and CARRIED

The committee value the current good working relationship with the society and felt that this should be protected. It was proposed the Clerk inform the Society that the current position of the committee was a 75/25 split in costs however, they would like to carry out a full investigation into the matter before finalising their decision.

This was seconded and CARRIED.

12/1/15

Strategic Working Party Recommendations

1. Members considered and discussed the formulation of a 3 year plan for R&OS. The following items were added:

Tuckers Play Area	Source funding to replace equipment with children's play area and adult outdoor gym
Allotments	Resolve water issue, source further allotments
Town Park	Repair and maintain benches, maintain park.
Oakwood Park	Maintain, New surface
Highworth Rd Layby	Add QR codes to signs, possibly add a quirky influence
Tennis Court	Support association, promote the court, put pictures on website

Willes Close	Make better use of the Land for Townsfolk. Tidy and maintain
Christmas Lights	Increase display, maintain, add interesting additions regularly
All Saints Churchyard	maintain.
General	Investigate devolving other parks to Town Council Create a Map of parks distribute to new residents Create a treasure hunt encompassing all the parks

It was proposed the Clerk work these items into a document which would be reconsidered at the next meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED.

2. Discuss a Maintenance Plan for R&OS for 2015/16

It was proposed that Leisure Services Staff formulated a plan for consideration at the next meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED

3. Review R&OS Committee Terms of Reference

It was proposed and seconded that this was DEFERED to the next meeting so members had the opportunity to consider the current terms.