

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 21st October 2015 at 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon

Due to technical issues with the disabled access it was proposed that the meeting be moved to the Corn Exchange, Faringdon to allow a member of the public easy access. This was AGREED.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Jane Boulton (Chairman)
David Barron
Ian Bell
Al Cane
Julie Farmer
Mark Greenwood
Andrew Marsden
Mike Wise

In Attendance: Sally Thurston, Town Clerk
Mel Lane, Bydand PM Ltd
3 members of the public

1/4/15 Apologies for Absence
Carolyn Murphy – Elms Tennis Association.

2/4/15 Declarations of Interest
None

3/4/15 Minutes of Last Meeting: 15th July 2015
The minutes were signed as a correct record

4/4/15 Items for Information Only
Members were informed that:

- Van has a delivery date of 11/12/15

Cllr. Jane Boulton PROPOSED that item 13b. be brought forward to allow members of the public to speak. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

5/4/15 Willes Close Triangle – b. to consider future use of the site
Members received a presentation from Mel Lane, Bydand PM Ltd, illustrating how the site could be developed into a sensory garden that reflected both WW1 Centenary and the anniversary of the town charter in 2018. The project would cost approx. £200,000 which would be funded by sourcing grants and local fundraising. Members were very

impressed with the project in principal. There were concerns regarding access and future costs of maintenance.

It was PROPOSED that further investigation regarding access to the site should take place. It was further PROPOSED the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with adjacent land owner Badnall properties to discuss access possibilities. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

Cllr. Jane Boulton PROPOSED that item 10d be brought forward to allow members of the public to speak if necessary. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

6/4/15 Allotments

Members considered a request from an allotment holder to improve disabled access. The Town Clerk reported that three allotments had now become available that may have better access. It was PROPOSED that the Clerk visit the site with the allotment holder to assess suitability. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

7/4/15 Public Speaking Time

No member of the public wished to speak at this time.

8/4/15 Public Question Time

None

9/4/15 Financial Report

Members received the half year 2015/16 financial report. This was NOTED

10/4/15 Christmas Lights 2015

Members received the following update regarding the 2015 Christmas Light display:

- Installation will begin week commencing 9/11/2015
- Small Christmas trees will have new lights
- Overhead strings will be extended as much as money allows with the aim of having a full strength display

This was NOTED.

11/4/15 Elms Tennis Court

Members received the following update:

- The court has been cleaned by a tennis company who understand the surface and how to maintain it. It has made a huge difference.
- Key holder numbers have increased due to a number of factors. Thanks to Rebekah Pugh, Alison Scott and Carolyn Murphy for help in advertising so that the people of Faringdon and surrounding villages are aware that there is a public court in Faringdon.
- Thanks to Jim Scott and Graham Hand for their help in general maintenance.

This was NOTED.

12/4/15 Allotments

- a) Members received and NOTED a report from the Assistant Town Clerk
- b) Members considered updating the allotment terms and conditions. It was PROPOSED that the Town Clerk should liaise with the Allotment Society and bring the terms and conditions in line. This was AGREED.

- c) Members considered a request to install a shed on allotment 13a. It was PROPOSED that a shed be permitted. This was SECONDED and CARRIED. The Town Clerk was asked to liaise with the allotment holders and agree an appropriate size. This was AGREED.

13/4/15

Tuckers Play area

- a) Members received a progress update on the refurbishment plans for Tuckers Park play area. The Town Clerk reported that s106 funding of £39,000 had been allocated to the project but further funding was proving difficult to source. Members received revised plans which could be implemented within allocated funds. It was PROPOSED that the Clerk progress with the new plans, which would include a further public consultation. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.
- b) Members received and NOTED results of public consultation on play areas.

14/4/15

All Saints Church Yard

- a) Members received an update regarding research into responsibilities included in the maintenance of the church yard. The Clerk informed members that no formal agreement could be found. The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the church yard by virtue of s.215 (2) of LGA 1972. However, the act is vague as to what this includes and All Saints agree clarification is needed. It was PROPOSED that All Saints draw up a memorandum of understanding for the committee to consider. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.
- b) Members considered a request from All Saints Church to cut the grass surrounding the Barber Rooms, a new extension to the church. It was PROPOSED that the Clerk be delegated authority to assess the scale of the work required and instruct the Leisure Services team to cut the grass if it was reasonable to do so. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

15/4/15

Willes Close Triangle

- a) Members were informed that there was no further update.

16/4/15

Town Park

Members were informed that a public picnic was held in the Town Park in August. This was extremely well attended with over 70 people taking part. This was NOTED.

17/4/15

Oakwood Park

- a) Members were informed there were no legal documents available to ascertain the legal responsibility for the fence between Oakwood Park and 14 Ash Close. This residents of no. 14 had provided a transfer form, filled out by the former owner, which said the fence belonged to the council. The Clerk had asked fencing contractors to assess the condition of the fence and any repairs that were necessary. It was reported that the fence was in good condition but several posts were rotten and broken due to wear and tear. To replace these posts a quote had been received for £250 +VAT. This was NOTED.
- b) Members received a request from Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler, resident of 14 Ash Close, to replace 11 or 12 sections of the fence with concrete posts. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler felt the damage was caused by footballs kicked against the fence. They are willing to contribute 50% of the costs which would amount to approx.£3,000 as per a quote obtained by Mrs. Wheeler. The Clerk informed members that our contractor had

advised that concrete posts would not be suitable as the fence would be too rigid and would break if balls are kicked against it. The Clerk had received a quote for £250 + VAT (as above) to repair the fence from the Oakwood Park side of the fence. After discussion it was PROPOSED that the council accept 50% liability for this repair of the fence at £250 + VAT. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

18/4/15

Footpath and Verge Cutting

- a) Members received an update following a site visit with Oxfordshire County Council Officers to:
- i. **Footpath known locally as the Hobble**
Faringdon Town Council has cut back the hedge along the path this year following public complaint, although this is OCC responsibility. OCC will ask other land owners along the path to do their bit and will consider budget next year. They suggested using the Community Payback scheme but felt that the path may be too isolated to qualify. OCC requested businesses at the Park Rd end of the path to repair fence. This has now been replaced. The hedge adjacent to Willes Close triangle needs attention during the winter months. It was PROPOSED that the Clerk follow up the possibility of using the community payback scheme with OCC. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.
 - ii. **Footpath from Southampton Street to Volunteer Way**
OCC will ask other land owners along the path to do their bit and will consider budget next year.
- b) Members considered a request from the Ramblers Association for the Town Council to assist in the clearance of the footpath from Southampton Street to Volunteer Way by providing a member of staff and the van to clear sidings. It was PROPOSED that, in the first instance, the Clerk contact Oxfordshire County Council and request they provide this service. This was SECONDED and CARRIED. It was further PROPOSED that the Clerk be delegated authority to instruct the Leisure Services team to assist if necessary. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

17/4/15

Strategic Working Party Recommendations

It was PROPOSED that the following areas of focus were assigned to members named:

Elms Tennis Court	Cllr. Al Cane
Christmas Lights	Cllr. Mark Greenwood
Allotments	Cllr. Jane Boulton
Tuckers Play Area	Cllr. Jane Boulton
All Saints Churchyard	Cllr. Ian Bell
Wilkes Close Triangle	Cllrs. David Barron and Julie Farmer
Town Park	Cllr. Al Cane
Footpaths and Verges	Cllr. Andrew Marsden
Development projects	Cllr. Mark Greenwood

This was SECONDED and CARRIED.