

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 30th October 2017 at the Parish Centre.

PRESENT

Councillor G C M Willis, Chairman

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, Mrs J M Cole, B L Correll, R J Dykstra, Mrs M H Harlock, R A Payne, Mrs J A Tavener, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms L A Gifford and P S Potts

07/17 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Mrs Tavener, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th July 2017 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

08/17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members.

09/17 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from its meeting held on 10th July 2017.

10/17 FEAST WEEK

Further to Minute Nos. 74/17 and 75/17 of the Council meeting held on 14th August 2017, the Clerk reported that J Thurston & Son had advised that none of the showmen who had attended the Feast Week funfair visit in July had been aware of any disturbances while they had been in Warboys. They also anticipated being able to arrange for dodgems and a helter-skelter to be part of the visit in 2018 and to attend Feast Week with a variety of traditional equipment. They also were investigating their records to research the history of the funfair visit during Feast Week.

Members were of the opinion that a band concert should be sponsored by the Council again on the first Sunday of Feast Week but it was suggested that another local band be hired on this occasion to provide a change from the Killer Shrimps who had been engaged in recent years. Councillors Mrs Cole and Mrs Wyatt undertook to supply the Clerk with details of a band that they had watched at the Royal Oak recently.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt confirmed that the Community Association would be seeking to co-ordinate events by village organisations again in 2018 which had been so successful in the current year.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Clerk advised Members that Feast Week would commence on 29th July in 2018, being the first Sunday after 22nd July.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to investigate the possibility of another local band playing at the band concert on the first Sunday of Feast Week.

11/17 JUBILEE PARK – ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED

Further to Minute No. 93/17(a) of the meeting of the Council held on 11th September 2017, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) following concerns expressed by Members about access for disabled people to Jubilee Park in wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

The Clerk advised that the pedestrian access to the park between 12 and 14 Farriers Way had been fitted by the Handymen some years previously with a gate that could be opened with the use of a RADAR key. A search of the internet had not identified any other type of secure gated access and while many wheelchair users would have a RADAR key, the Clerk reported that these were readily available on the internet at minimal cost. A notice raising awareness of the second entrance and the easy availability of RADAR keys had been placed on the main gate by the Clerk to assist the wheelchair users.

However Councillor Mrs Bucknell expressed concern that elderly users of wheelchairs may not have access to the internet and that advertising their easy availability might lead to young people purchasing keys to gain access with motorbikes or scooters.

The Clerk also reported that it would not be possible to modify the main entrance gate to permit wheelchair access without significant expense and that the development of the land to the south of the park would offer an opportunity to work in conjunction with the developers to improve access.

RESOLVED

that the current notice be removed and the Clerk requested to purchase a limited number of RADAR keys for sale to wheelchair users, following which an amended notice be placed at the main entrance.

12/17 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Committee reviewed the maintenance requirements of the various areas within its remit as follows:-

(a) Replacement and Repairs to Equipment

Further to Minute No. 113/17 of the Council meeting held on 9th October 2017, the Chairman drew attention to information received from Wicksteed Leisure confirming that the basket seat at Jubilee Park met the appropriate safety standard. Notwithstanding a statement in the annual safety inspection report that gaps in the seat represented a safety hazard, the Committee was advised of the receipt of a letter and certificate from the supplier, Huck Nets (UK) Ltd, confirming that the equipment met the relevant European safety standard. Wicksteed had also advised that the European and British safety standards were the same.

Under the circumstances the Chairman proposed that the basket seat not be changed and it was

RESOLVED

that the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure be accepted, subject to the deletion of the replacement of the Huck basket seat.

(b) Adams Lyons Playground

Councillor Mrs Bucknell drew attention to the deteriorating condition of the activity trail and the fact that some of the items were now loose. The Chairman pointed out that the activity trail would be removed under the contract with Wicksteed Leisure and the Clerk undertook to arrange for the Handymen to dispose of any of the posts that could be removed by hand.

Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she had noticed a comment on Facebook by a parent to the effect that she had found broken glass in the sand pit over the weekend and she had encouraged people to use the litter bins provided at the playground. Councillor Dr Withams advised that she would be posting a response on Facebook advising of the regular visits by the Handymen to monitor the playground and collect litter.

(c) The Weir

Prior to the sale of some of the larger fish in The Weir, the Clerk reported that it had been necessary to register the pond as a fishery with the Fish Health Inspectorate.

An estimate had been received from a dredging company for the purposes of budget preparation by the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting later in the month and the Clerk reported that he would continue to investigate the availability of additional contractors.

Councillor Mrs Cole also advised of the necessity to continue to apply Diofix in the spring to combat excessive weed growth in the pond.

(d) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Councillor Mrs Bucknell reported that the footpath to the Heath Pond and Sheepwash from Heath Road required further strimming as this was overgrown with nettles. She also suggested that the area was in need of renovation.

Councillor Mrs Cole reminded the Committee that she had researched the history of the Sheepwash previously and Councillor Mrs Tavener offered to investigate the possibility of grant for improvement works. However the Clerk reminded Members that when this had been discussed previously, the Council had decided not to include funding in the budget because of conflicting priorities.

(e) Orchard Close

Councillor Mrs Bucknell expressed the view that the entrance gate could be opened too easily by a child. Although no comment had been made about the condition of the gate when the annual safety inspection had been carried out earlier in the year, the Clerk undertook to investigate whether a catch could be fixed to the gate which made it more difficult to open.

(f) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

It was noted that no action was required.

(g) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

Although the overhanging vegetation had been cut back recently by the Handymen, Councillor Mrs Bucknell drew attention to litter in the pathway which had been dropped by customers of the SPAR shop

(h) War Memorial

Having been advised that the Rotary Club of Ramsey had donated a further 500 purple crocus bulbs for planting in the village, the Committee agreed that most be planted in the War Memorial garden involving children from the Under Fives Playgroup, with the balance planted at The Weir.

(i) Jubilee Park

Following the posting of notices at the entrances to Jubilee Park encouraging the public to use the litter bins provided and not drop litter in the park, Councillor Correll reported that the situation had not improved noticeably.

13/17 BUDGET 2018/19

The Committee considered a financial statement, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, containing details of estimated expenditure on leisure areas in the current financial year and projected expenditure in 2018/19.

The Clerk explained that he would include the replacement of play equipment, proposed dredging of The Weir and the creation of a reserve for future play equipment maintenance in the General Account as exceptional items that otherwise would skew the normal maintenance budget.

RESOLVED

that the budget for leisure areas for 2018/19 be approved as submitted and forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.