

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 28th October 2013 at the Parish Centre.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, P Clarke, Mrs M H Harlock, P S Potts, Mrs S A Pryke, Mrs J E Tavener, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole and R A Payne.

01/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Mrs Tavener, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs M H Harlock be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Mrs Harlock in the Chair.

02/13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Pryke and seconded by Councillor Mrs Harlock, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor G C M Willis be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

03/13 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Tavener and seconded by Councillor Potts, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th March 2013 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

04/13 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members.

05/13 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from its meeting held on 18th March 2013:-

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

Further to Minute No. 11/12(a), the Clerk referred to the difficulty in obtaining a low cost solution to the ongoing problem of rubble being exposed in the slide mound because children running and cycling up and down the slopes were causing earth and seeding to become quickly eroded. Councillor Clarke suggested that the sides of the mound be built up using sleepers and the Clerk agreed to meet him on site to consider whether this was a practical proposition.

In reply to a question from Councillor Mrs Bucknell regarding the erection of the replacement aerial runway earlier in the year, the Clerk confirmed that he had received written confirmation from the suppliers that the way that the equipment had been installed would meet current safety standards.

Following the sowing of wild flower seeds by children from the primary school early in the summer on the northern perimeter of the playground, Councillor Mrs Tavener advised that some of the seed appeared not to have germinated when she had last inspected the site but that she was hopeful that there would be flowers in the following spring.

(b) Orchard Close Playground

Further to Minute No. 11/12(b), the Clerk reported that a large number of bricks had now been dislodged from the boundary wall at the rear of the Orchard Close playground. As maintenance of the wall was the responsibility of the owners of the houses whose rear gardens backed on to the playground, Members felt that their liability for the wall should be pointed out to the residents. Members also remained reluctant to authorise repairs of the wall which could result in the Council becoming responsible for any problems with its future condition.

It was suggested also that rigid fencing be erected inside the rear wall both to avoid any possibility of bricks from the wall falling into the playground and future damage to the wall by balls being kicked against it.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Clerk be requested to make a final attempt by recorded delivery post to persuade the owners of the properties to accept responsibility to maintain the wall; and
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to obtain an estimate of the cost of erecting a rigid fence adjacent to the rear wall of the playground.

(c) The Weir

Further to Minute No. 11/12(c), the Clerk indicated that he would liaise again with the District Council about the re-seeding of the surface topsoil on the gabions and the works to the exposed corners following the completion of the refurbishment works at The Weir earlier in the year.

(d) Jubilee Park

Arising from Minute No. 11/12(d), the Clerk reported that he was awaiting an answer from the County Council's Highways Officer about the possible installation of a finger post in the High Street indicating the location of Jubilee Park.

(e) Jubilee Park

Further to Minute No. 12/12(b), the Clerk reported that all of the equipment purchased with the National Lottery grant had been installed by the Handymen at Jubilee Park with the exception of the kissing gate which they intended to undertake in the near future.

06/13 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

Councillor Mrs Bucknell reported that she had been contacted by the company that had undertaken the repairs to the roundabout who had expressed concern about the safety of the boards that had been fitted. Under the circumstances, the Clerk indicated that he would contact the company to ascertain whether remedial action was required.

The Clerk also reported that he had received a quotation for the supply of CCTV cameras at the playground in an attempt to deter the vandalism and alcohol consumption that had taken place in the past. The quotation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council but would also require arrangements with the owner of Manor Farm to obtain an electricity supply and locate the monitor for the cameras. In reply to a question, the Clerk undertook to contact the Police to ask whether a grant might be obtained towards the cost of the work.

(b) The Weir

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to two companies about the dredging of The Weir and would be arranging meetings on site with them in the near future to discuss the implications prior to obtaining quotations.

(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Arising from a suggestion by Councillor Mrs Wyatt that many people in the village were unaware of the existence of the Heath Pond and Sheepwash, it was suggested that the Friends of Warboys Library be asked if they could prepare a series of articles on locations in the Parish of historic interest for inclusion on their website and handbook.

(d) Orchard Close

Further to Minute No. 5/13(b) above, Members asked that a quotation be obtained for the repair of the wall at the rear of Orchard Close playground which could be passed to the house owners responsible for its maintenance.

(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been achieved with Persimmon Homes with regard to the transfer to public ownership of the open space at the extension to Pathfinder Way. Members were informed that as soon as the transfer of Jubilee Park from Persimmon to the Council had been resolved, the company would be asked to progress the transfer of the land at Pathfinder Way.

The Clerk reported that there were no issues in respect of the other areas of public open space maintained by the Council at Pathfinder Way.

(f) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to bring to the attention of the Committee.

(g) War Memorial

The Clerk reported that, following the sale of the former school and garden containing the War Memorial in 2012, the Council was continuing to maintain the garden and that he would speak to the new owner about access for the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday service.

(h) Jubilee Park

Members were informed that an application had been made to Grantscape for a grant of 50% towards the cost of the play equipment to be installed at Jubilee Park, the outcome of which was likely to be known in the spring.

The Clerk also reported that he had been contacted by the District Council about the possibility of an off site contribution of £4,000 in lieu of open space provision for the proposed development at the rear of 64 High Street which was currently the subject of a planning application. The District Council had been informed that if the contribution was forthcoming, this would be used towards the cost of the new play equipment. As an alternative, Members suggested that the developers could be asked to provide a circular seat around the walnut tree that was subject to a tree preservation order in the centre of the site at the rear of 64 High Street.

Following the attendance at the Council meeting held on 14th October 2013 of agents acting for the owners of land at the rear of Farriers Way, the Clerk reported that the Transport Assessment supplied by the agents had shown a pedestrian and cycle access to the High Street across Jubilee Park. The indicative design circulated by the agents at the meeting had shown the public open space for the proposed new development being located in the centre of the housing as opposed to an extension of Jubilee Park. Under the circumstances, the Committee was informed that the Chairman had agreed to an item being included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council to discuss the proposed design and possibly influence its content.

(i) Miscellaneous

As a result of the high winds over the previous 24 hours, the Clerk reported that the Handymen would be undertaking an inspection of trees in the ownership of the Council to assess their condition.

With regard to a complaint by a member of the public about the tree in the primary school field overhanging the adjoining footpath, the Clerk advised that this was the responsibility of the school governing body. Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that a number of people had asked her whether they could collect apples from the trees in the highway verge in Ramsey Road. As it was thought extremely unlikely that the County Council would raise any objection, it was suggested that the public be encouraged to gather the fruit to ensure that it was being used.

In reply to a question by Councillor Mrs Bucknell, the Clerk reported that he would confirm whether the District Council had given permission for the siting of the Jubilee commemorative plaque on the open space in the High Street near the junction with Forge Way.

The Chairman reported that the Women's Institute were considering purchasing a seat for installation in the village and she invited the Committee to consider a suitable location. It was suggested by Members that Ramsey Road might be a suitable site as there were no seats located there currently. The Chairman indicated that the matter would be discussed further by the Institute and a formal approach would be made to the Council if they intended to proceed.

07/13 FEAST WEEK - BAND CONCERT

The Committee considered the arrangements for the Feast Week visit by the funfair and the band concert in 2014.

While various activities took place during Feast Week, the Clerk pointed out that these were not co-ordinated and it was suggested that the forthcoming meeting with the traders in the village to discuss economic activity might be an opportunity to raise the possibility of a Feast Week Committee being formed to generate additional business during that week.

With regard to the Feast Week concert, Members commented on the poor attendance at the primary school for the concert in July and it was suggested that an alternative venue be tried. As the concert used to be held in the High Street near the Clock Tower, Members felt that it would be preferable if this could again be arranged in the open air if a suitable temporary awning could be installed to protect against possible bad weather. As the Roberts family had been extremely helpful in providing and erecting a marquee in the High Street during the Diamond Jubilee street party, the Clerk was requested to contact them to ask whether they would provide an awning for either the Library or White Hart car parks for the band concert and other possible entertainment during Feast Week.

With regard to the choice of band for the concert organised by the Parish Council on the Sunday evening of Feast Week, Councillor Potts offered the services of a band in which he performed that played a variety of popular music.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the possibility of a Feast Week Committee being formed be raised at the economic vitality of the village meeting with the shop traders;
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to ask the Roberts family if they would be prepared to provide an awning for the band concert and possible other entertainment during Feast Week; and
- (c) that the Killer Shrimps be engaged to provide the Feast Week band concert in 2014 at a location to be determined following the outcome of the enquiry to the Roberts family.

08/13 BUDGET 2014/15

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 2014/15.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the cost of replacing the tennis court fence had not been included in the budget and it was pointed out that the fencing appeared to have been damaged further recently as a result of a car having been driven into it. The Clerk reported that he would investigate whether the damage had been recorded on the Parish Centre CCTV system and that he would attempt to recover the cost of the repair from an insurance claim.

Councillor Mrs Bucknell also mentioned that the Police had recommended the installation of a skateboard park as a diversion for youngsters to try to minimise the anti-social behaviour in the village at the present time and that this had not been included in the budget.

RESOLVED

- that the budget for leisure areas for 2014/15 be approved as submitted, subject to the inclusion of the cost of the tennis court repair and a reference to the cost of a

skateboard facility, and forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

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

Chairman.