

# **WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 27th October 2014 at the Parish Centre.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, P Clarke, Mrs J M Cole, Ms L A Gifford, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, P S Potts, J C Price, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor T R Huggins.

## **APOLOGIES**

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

## **01/14 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Cole and seconded by Councillor Potts, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

**Councillor Mrs Bucknell in the Chair.**

## **02/14 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Upon being moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Willis, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Mrs M H Harlock be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

## **03/14 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Willis and seconded by Councillor Potts, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th March 2014 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

## **04/14 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No interests were declared by Members.

## **05/14 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee considered the following matters arising from its meeting held on 24th March 2014:-

### **(a) Feast Week Band Concert**

Arising from Minute No. 11/13(a) and a suggestion by Councillor Mrs Wyatt that a letter of thanks should have been forthcoming from the White Hart public house for the additional business generated by the Feast Week band concert on their premises, the Clerk pointed out that the Council had been encouraging business to use Feast Week as a way of generating additional income and that no charge had been made for the use of the premises.

### **(b) Adams Lyons Playground**

Further to Minute No. 12/13(a), Councillor Willis reported that he had spoken to Image Playgrounds about the possibility of installing some form of trim trail arrangement at the base of the slide mound at Adams Lyons playground to prevent surface erosion exposing the rubble base which was being caused by youngsters riding cycles over it. However the company had indicated that this would pose a danger to health and safety and would not be feasible.

The Clerk reminded Members that quotations had been obtained previously to cover the mound with safety surfacing which had been rejected because of the high cost. However the Clerk indicated that he would invite the successful tenderer for the Orchard Close improvement project to submit a quotation to undertake the work when they were installing the equipment at that playground.

### **(c) Jubilee Park**

Arising from Minute No. 12/13(b), Members commented on the positive feedback that had been received about the new play equipment installed at Jubilee Park earlier in the year which was being well used by families with young children. Members were also informed that there had been no further complaints from neighbours in recent months.

### **(d) Orchard Close Playground**

Further to Minute No. 12/13(c), the Clerk reported that the companies submitting quotations for additional play equipment at Orchard Close playground had been asked also to submit quotation for the repair of the safety surfacing under the spring mobile.

## **06/14 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **(a) Adams Lyons Playground**

Councillor Mrs Harlock reported that the tubing around the chain on the aerial runway had split and the Clerk undertook to arrange for a replacement to be fitted by the Handymen.

Councillor Mrs Harlock also mentioned that the wild flowers planted by primary school children near the boundary with The Paddocks appeared to be becoming overgrown by weeds and it was suggested that Councillor Mrs Tavener be asked to investigate as the original planting had been her idea.

Councillor Clarke mentioned that he had observed children standing on top of one of the climbing frames and he queried whether there was sufficient safety surfacing if a child fell. The Chairman advised that an independent safety report had been obtained following the installation of the equipment and the Clerk reminded Members that an annual safety check was undertaken by an independent company, neither of which had drawn attention to any deficiency in the safety surfacing.

**(b) The Weir**

Councillor Mrs Cole reported on her investigations with the Environment Agency into the use of barley straw when Siltex was applied to The Weir in the spring. The Agency had recommended that the straw be contained in the type of netting used for Christmas tree sales and Councillor Mrs Cole reported that the proprietor of the Warboys Christmas Tree Centre had offered to assist with the bagging of the straw. Arrangements had been made with a local farmer to supply the straw and Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she would organise for a trial to be undertaken so that suitable arrangements were in place prior to the Siltex being applied. The Clerk was requested to circulate copies of a summary of the information provided by the Agency to all Members.

Members were informed that rats had been observed recently at The Weir and that the Handymen were placing poison in the bait bins to try to eradicate the problem.

Councillor Mrs Cole informed Members of the arrangements that she had made to present awards to youngsters who fished at The Weir and it was suggested that the Ramsey and Warboys Informer be contacted to publicise the prize giving presentation at which Councillor Price would be making the awards.

**(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash**

Arising from a question by Councillor Mrs Wyatt, Councillor Mrs Cole replied that she had arranged to supply Mr E Tringham with copies of photographs of the Sheepwash.

**(d) Orchard Close**

The Clerk reported that the companies supplying quotations for the additional play equipment at Orchard Close playground had also been asked to supply quotations for the replacement of the safety surfacing beneath one of the sets of swings which had become torn with use.

Councillor Mrs Harlock reported that a bin appeared to have been pushed out of its footings at the playground which the Clerk undertook to investigate.

**(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces**

Members were informed 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.

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**

Members were informed that a complaint had been received recently about the amount of dog fouling in the footpath between High Street and Woodlands and asking for the installation of a further litter bin. However the Clerk suggested that this was a recurrent problem throughout the village and that additional bins would not necessarily improve the situation.

Arising from a comment by a Member about the need for the vegetation to be cut back on both sides of the footpath, the Clerk indicated that he would ask the Handymen to carry out the work.

**(g) War Memorial**

Following the installation of the World War I commemorative seat earlier in the year with inscriptions of the names of two servicemen that had been omitted when the war memorial had been installed, Councillor Clarke suggested that the names should be added to the memorial itself. Differing views were expressed by Members as to whether this was necessary as the commemorative seat served as a poignant reminder of the additional names that had been identified following research by two ladies in the village. It was suggested therefore that when repairs/maintenance was next undertaken to the war memorial further consideration be given to adding the two names at that time.

Members were reminded that the Remembrance Sunday service would take place on 9th November at 10.30 a.m. at the war memorial, followed by a service at the Parish Church conducted by the Bishop of Ely. Members were encouraged to attend. Arising from the difficulty in finding a bugler to play at the service, Councillors Huggins and Potts offered to make enquiries about the availability of trumpet players.

**(h) Jubilee Park**

Councillor Clarke drew attention to a loose shackle on the swing seat safety chain at Jubilee Park which the Clerk indicated that he would arrange to be replaced.

**(i) Miscellaneous**

Arising from a question by Councillor Mrs Wyatt about the overgrown nature of the hedge adjoining the footpath leading from George Lane to Humberdale Way, the Clerk pointed out that the hedge lay inside the school playing field and was therefore the responsibility of the school.

Councillor Willis suggested that the notice board in the Library car park was in need of replacement and he pointed out that more attractive designs were now available that would improve the appearance of the area. Other Members pointed out that the notice board adjacent to the school in Humberdale Way was not conveniently located for people to read and that it would be preferable if it was re-located.

Under the circumstances, Councillor Willis offered to research the types of notice boards available with a view to a discussion on the matter at a future meeting of the Council.

### **07/14 FEAST WEEK - BAND CONCERT**

The Committee considered the arrangements for the Feast Week visit by the funfair and the band concert in 2015. Members were of the opinion that the concert by the Killer Shrimps at the White Hart in 2014 had been very successful and suggested that the same venue and group should be used for the ensuing year. However it was felt that there should be better publicity as some residents may not have realised that this was a free concert arranged by the Council as part of Feast Week.

A number of Members referred to the scope of the celebrations for Feast Week in previous years but acknowledged the difficulty now in persuading individuals to volunteer to organise village activities. As a result, Councillor Mrs Wyatt offered to raise the subject at the next meeting of the Community Association to try to encourage clubs and their members to play a more active part in organising Feast Week events.

### **RESOLVED**

that the Feast Week band concert be held again at the White Hart public house, subject to the proprietor's agreement, that the Killer Shrimps be engaged to provide the concert and Councillor Potts requested to make the necessary arrangements.

### **08/14 BUDGET 2015/16**

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 2015/16.

Although expenditure had exceeded the budget in 2013/14 and was expected to do so again in 2014/15, the Clerk pointed out that the Council had authorised a number of additional schemes, the cost of some of which had been offset by grant and by the use of Section 106 reserves.

The Clerk reminded Members that a sum of £2,000 had been included in the budget for the purchase of a replacement mower for use by the Handymen. New equipment had not been purchased for the current year's grass cutting as the Handymen had been able to repair the existing mowers. However the Clerk requested authority to purchase a new machine over the winter in time for the start of the cutting cycle in 2015. In response to questions from Members about the possible purchase of a ride-on mower, the Clerk advised that the Council did not have anywhere where the vehicle could be stored when not in use and that a machine of this nature was not sufficiently manoeuvrable to be able to cut the verges in the village because of the presence of a large number of trees, bins etc. that had to be avoided.

In response to a question by Councillor Potts, the Clerk advised that a sum of approximately £3,500 had been accumulated and earmarked for the replacement of the Council's van. As the current vehicle had been purchased 10 years ago, the Clerk informed Members that it was his intention to propose that funding be included in the budget to purchase a replacement in 2015.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the budget for leisure areas for 2015/16 be approved as submitted and forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration; and
- (b) that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a replacement mower from the budget provision in the current year for this purpose.

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

**Chairman.**