

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 31st October 2016 at the Parish Centre.

PRESENT

Councillors Ms H A Backhouse, Mrs M P Bucknell, Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, Ms L A Gifford, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, Mrs J A Tavener, G C M Willis, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor R A Payne.

01/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Ms Gifford, 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.

02/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Ms Backhouse and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs A R Wyatt be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

03/16 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Willis, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st March 2016 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

04/16 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members.

05/16 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from its meeting held on 21st March 2016.

06/16 FEAST WEEK

Following the decision by the Council to ask the Community Association to promote Feast Week with the aid of a grant of £800, Ms V Musson, Secretary of the Association, reported on the activities that had been organised in July.

By means of a report that had been circulated, Ms Musson reminded Members that an 'Elvis Entertains' and hog roast had taken place at the Sports and Social Club on 30th July and a 'Picnic in the Park' at the sports field on 31st July. All tickets had been sold for the first event and it was estimated that over 500 people had attended the latter. In thanking the Council for their grant, Ms Musson reported that the Association had raised £1,600 from the events that would enable them to promote Feast Week again in 2017 and to provide support to local groups. In addition, it was thought that groups taking part in Picnic in the Park had raised £850 for their own use.

With regard to 2017, the Committee was advised that the Community Association would be organising the fourth 'It's a Knockout' on 1st May. With regard to Feast Week, the Association would be arranging another tribute act for which tickets would be sold. They would be encouraging all of their member organisations in the village to plan an event of some kind during that week and would co-ordinate and publicise the programme through local media. Ms Musson also mentioned the possibility of applying for a Lottery grant to help fund local events and Councillor Ms Gifford reported that she had been contacted by a member of the public suggesting a scarecrow competition.

With regard to the tradition of the Council funding a band concert on the first Sunday in Feast Week, it was generally agreed that the format of a concert at the front of the White Hart public house in the High Street had proved a success in recent years.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the report by Ms Musson on behalf of the Community Association be welcomed; and
- (b) that a band concert on the Sunday of Feast Week be held again at the White Hart public house, subject to the proprietor's agreement, and the Killer Shrimps be engaged to provide the concert.

07/16 PLAY EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY SURFACING

The Clerk submitted a report, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, containing quotations for the replacement of safety surfacing that had been identified as being in need of repair in the safety inspection report considered at the Committee's previous meeting. As one of the company's representatives had identified a potential

fault with the swings for older children at Adams Lyons playground, the companies had also been invited to quote for replacement swings and associated safety surfacing.

However the Chairman proposed that if the swing unit needed to be replaced, the Council should investigate other options as opposed to the traditional type of flat seats, including tyres, baskets and units that could accommodate a disabled child. Under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

that consideration of the quotations now submitted be deferred and the companies be invited to submit additional quotes for other types of swing unit.

08/16 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

In response to concern expressed by the Chairman about the delay in replacing the basket swing at the playground, the Clerk reported that the supplier would be undertaking the work later that week, together with other repairs identified in the safety report.

With regard to the condition of the raised flower bed, the Committee accepted an offer from Councillor Ms Tavener to be responsible for its planting and maintenance in the future.

The Chairman advised that she had found a brick and a half brick embedded in the ground near the boundary fence, and that the mound steps were becoming rotten creating gaps and that the bark area under the slide needed raking to cover the concrete base.

(b) The Weir

Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she would liaise with the Handymen shortly with regard to the removal of the aerator from the pond and she updated the Committee on her enquiries with local fisheries with regard to the potential relocation of some of the larger fish.

(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

The Chairman commented that the condition of the footpath to the Heath Pond and Sheepwash had improved since she had last visited the site.

(d) Orchard Close

The Chairman reported that she had discovered dog faeces in the playground when she had visited but the Clerk reported that this had been a problem for some

months, even though dogs were prohibited from the site. Councillor Ms Backhouse indicated that she would try to monitor the situation as she lived nearby.

The Chairman also drew attention to the need to add more topsoil to cover an exposed length of concrete footing near the fence and mentioned that the rubber casing on the spring mobile was starting to fray.

(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

The Chairman mentioned that the area of open space leading to Lea Brooks Close appeared to be poorly maintained but the Clerk advised that this still remained in private ownership with Persimmon Homes failing to respond to requests for its transfer to public ownership.

The Chairman also drew attention to the fact that brambles were growing across the footway in Pathfinder Way. The Clerk pointed out that the hedge was also in private ownership and that the Handymen had already cut it back twice over the course of the summer. Nevertheless he indicated that he would ask the Handymen to trim the hedge again.

(f) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

No action was required.

(g) War Memorial

The Chairman advised that the area around the War Memorial was looking very attractive. Members were also reminded that the Remembrance Sunday service would be taking place shortly on 13th November.

(h) Jubilee Park

The Chairman drew attention to hedge clippings on the ground near the entrance to Jubilee Park but it was suggested that these might have been the result of action by the adjoining house owner. It was reported that one of the fruit trees in the community orchard appeared to have a fungal infection but the Clerk reported that these were maintained by Greener Futures. As there was some doubt as to whether the organisation was currently active, the Clerk indicated that he would ascertain whether it was their intention to continue to maintain the trees, otherwise this would be dealt with by the Handymen.

Mention was made of the fact that the bird spikes above the play equipment had been vandalised. Arising from a complaint that a tree branch was obscuring the light on the pedestrian crossing in the High Street near Forge Way, the Clerk indicated that he would arrange for this to be dealt with by the Handymen.

(i) Miscellaneous

Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that she had been approached by an elderly person complaining that the leaves that had fallen from the trees in the High Street verge might result in someone slipping and injuring themselves. Under the circumstances, the Clerk was requested to enquire whether the Community Payback Scheme could sweep up the leaves, wash the highway signs in the village and collect litter from the highway verge in Church Road between the church and the cemetery.

The Chairman reported that a light under the Jubilee Clock Tower was faulty.

Councillor Mrs Tavener reported that the Speedwatch equipment that had been borrowed for use in the village had been returned to the Police to be recalibrated and that it was not known whether it would be possible to arrange for its return as it was used throughout the County.

09/16 BUDGET 2017/18

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 2017/18.

The Clerk drew attention to the need to replace one of the mowers used by the Handymen which was now 10 years old but that he would incorporate this in the budget submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED

that the budget for leisure areas for 2017/18 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.