

MINUTES of a MEETING of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE of WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL held on Thursday 21st July 2016, at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at 28 High Street, Winslow

A16/30	<p>Present: Cllrs Barry, Chambers, Gray and Morton. Absent: Cllrs Castle (apologies accepted) Clerk: S. Carolan Members of the Press and Public: Cllr Renshell (AVDC) and one member of the public were in attendance.</p>
	<p>Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed: None Consideration of Applications for Dispensation: None</p>
A16/31	<p>Minutes of Meeting 16th June 2016. The committee RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record. Matters Arising: The Clerk reported that the issue of HGV traffic on Verney Road is on the Development Committee agenda for August. Members noted the lack of progress in procuring a goalpost for the Recreation Ground practice pitch. RESOLVED that goalposts be purchased and installed from budgeted playground funds.</p>
	<p>Items Deferred: None.</p>
	<p>Items Delegated by Council (not covered elsewhere on the agenda): None</p>
A16/32	<p>Street Furniture and Litter: The Committee considered a request for a new litter bin for the playground, and a suggestion from the Clerk that a new, standard design of bin be chosen for the Town. After considering some sample designs the Committee RESOLVED that a new bin should be purchased and that the decision on the new standard bin be delegated to the Clerk and reported back to Amenities for the record. The Committee noted that the final decision on new cycle racks for the High Street was scheduled for Q4, and RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact TfB to expedite the decision.</p>
A16/33	<p>Devolved Grass Cutting: The Clerk reported that the recent dry weather had allowed cutting to get back on schedule and complaints had reduced significantly. The Committee heard that Bucks CC are no longer spraying roadside weeds and as a result many parts of the Town have significant growth. WTC's contractors are doing a one off spray around the Town, which will be complete by early August. Committee RESOLVED that weed spraying be continued for the foreseeable future and provision be made in the budget for future years. Members raised concerns about tree trimming on Lowndes way in areas previously managed by BCC. RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate responsibility and ensure that the paths are cleared, and if necessary recharge the owners.</p>
	<p>Allotments: The Clerk reported a rise in the number of allotments not being cultivated. Notices have been sent out to the allotment holders concerned and some plots have been repossessed. A number of plots have been reallocated and as a result the waiting list is very short. The Chairman reported that the revised allotment agreement will be discussed with Winslow Charities on 12th August 2016 and the outcome reported to the Committee at the next meeting.</p>
A16/34	<p>Burial Ground: The Committee considered a request to allow the erection of a non-standard memorial. Members being aware of previous positive feedback praising the Burial Ground for its tidiness and uniformity, RESOLVED not to allow the proposed memorial in this case. The Committee considered a request from the Clerk to purchase and install two new litter bins to the new standard design and better suited than the existing open-topped bins. The Committee REOLVED that the bins be purchased from budgeted funds, and the existing bins reused elsewhere if possible. The Committee considered a request from the Clerk to purchase and install a gate from the car park into the extension land to avoid the need to dismantle the fence to allow grass cutting. As this is a practical solution to an ongoing problem Committee RESOLVED that the gate be purchased from budgeted funds. The Committee considered written comments from Cllr Castle regarding the extension land. The Clerk reported that the stock fence is to be repaired shortly, that the comments on the utility area are broadly in keeping with Councils intentions, and that matters related to the STFS construction site will need to be considered when the landscaping begins.</p>

A16/35	<p>Playground: The Committee examined a proposal from the Clerk that a programme of operational inspections be put in place and outsourced to Serco, and an estimate of the annual cost. The Committee considered this to be a positive and practical proposition, which was within the budget for 2016/17 and RESOLVED that the Clerk should progress the outsourcing, subject to confirmation of the cost involved.</p> <p>Members heard that the signage review is in progress, and deferred further consideration until the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Walks around Winslow: Members noted that leaflets were already being distributed, and discussed further opportunities to gain publicity including advertising in the Parish News with a launch article by the Mayor also sending photographs of the Mayor launching the scheme to the local press.</p>
A16/36	<p>Skate Park: The Committee heard the Chairman's report of a constructive meeting with AVDC regarding the lease of land at Three Hills, and the Clerk's initial estimate of the maintenance costs of the land. The Committee discussed the proposal and RESOLVED that the following motion be presented to the Council:</p> <p><i>RECOMMENDATION 'The Amenities Committee, through its Working Party and having examined other sites, believes that Three Hills is the most realistic current site for the construction of a skate park in Winslow and recommends that subject to a satisfactory utilities, site and tree survey carried out by AVDC as agreed, also an agreement of an allowance from AVDC to offset the legal and maintenance costs, Council enters into a long term lease on the area'</i></p>
	<p>Tomkins Park & Arboretum (formerly the Paddock): The Committee noted that the drainage work is complete and fencing is imminent. The steering group will meet on 1st August 2016.</p>
	<p>Reports of Outside Bodies: Winslow Charities - No meeting to report - next meeting 12th August 2016. Winslow NAG - The Chairman reported that a further decrease in antisocial behaviour had been reported at the July meeting,</p>
	<p>Correspondence: The Clerk reported correspondence from a resident about grass cuttings on the recreation ground. However the matter is not WTC's responsibility and will be passed back to the correspondent to deal with the appropriate organisation.</p>
	<p>Other Items for information: None</p>
	<p>Meeting closed 8:00pm</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 18th August 2016.</p> <p>Signed: (Chairman) at Meeting on 18th August 2016</p>