

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JULY 2010 IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present: Councillors Mrs M Ross (Chair of Town Council)
C Brine (Vice-Chair of Town Council)
J Aldis
V Kempt

In Attendance: Councillor R Govier (part)
R A Lacey – Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillor G Powell - holiday

G3/12 TO ELECT A CONVENOR OF COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

The election of a Convenor is carried forward from the last Committee meeting.

Councillor Brine proposed that Councillor Aldis should be elected as the Convenor of Committee for 2010/2011. Councillor Mrs Ross (Chair of Town Council) seconded the proposal and in the absence of any other nominations the proposal was unanimously agreed by Members present.

G3/13 TO ELECT A DEPUTY CONVENOR OF COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

The election of a Deputy Convenor is carried forward from the last Committee meeting.

Councillor Mrs Ross (Chair of Town Council) proposed that Councillor Mrs Kempt should be elected as Deputy Convenor of the Committee for the year 2010/2011. Councillor Brine seconded the proposal and in the absence of any other nominations the proposal was unanimously agreed by Members present.

G3/14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded of their obligation, within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct, to declare any personal or prejudicial interests where applicable.

There were no requests for declarations of interest to be recorded.

G3/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH MAY 2010

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24th May 2010 are enclosed for approval.

It was pointed out that at the meeting held on 24th May 2010 Councillor Mrs Ross (Chair of Town Council) chaired the meeting as of right rather than authorised by other Members. With this one amendment Members present unanimously agreed to approve the Minutes as recorded.

G3/16 TOWN COUNCIL – CARBON REDUCTION

Members are reminded of the requirements that the carbon footprint is taken into consideration in all actions taken by each of the Town Council's Standing Committees.

G3/16 Town Council Carbon Reduction (cont'd)

One Member present advised the meeting that the two other Standing Committees had decided previously to delete this item from Agendas. It was accepted that all decisions made by Standing Committees should reflect the Council's wish to reduce its carbon footprint at every opportunity. Members present voted unanimously to also delete the item from future Committee Agendas.

G3/17 UPDATE OF MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Allotments

- i) An inspection of the allotments, including the starter plots, will have been undertaken prior to the Committee meeting and an update given.

Members present were advised that the Deputy Clerk had undertaken the normal inspection prior to the meeting and had reported that no plots were now in receipt of a Red rating. The previous Red plots had either been upgraded or vacated.

With the releasing of small plots back to the Council Members present discussed the procedures for letting to current Starter Plot tenants. At the time Starter Plots were created this was agreed as a course of action and the two vacant small plots were now be offered accordingly.

- ii) Councillor Govier recently attended a meeting of the Allotment Tenants Association and his report is enclosed for Members information.

As Councillor Govier was, author of the Allotment Tenants Association meeting report, was in attendance the Convenor invited him to join the meeting. Members present discussed the report with Councillor Govier and the suggestion was made that as the Allotment Association had so much interest in running of the site that perhaps they would wish to manage it in its totality in future. Members present therefore Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that an investigation be made towards handing over the allotment management to the Allotment Association.

b) Progress Check on Previously Agreed Actions

An updated list on the progress of this Committee's actions is enclosed for Members' information.

Members present discussed the current actions and any amendments recorded. The updated listed is appended to these Minutes.

c) Stagholt/Oldend Lane Playing Field – Watercourses

Re: Minute Nos. G3/06(d) of 24.5.10; F3/78(d) of 19.4.10; F3/69(d) of 1.3.10; F3/58(d) of 18.1.10; F3/49(d) of 16.11.09; F3/39 of 5.10.09; F3/25(d) of 7.9.09; F3/05(e) of 15.6.09

At the last Committee meeting Members were circulated with a copy of the quotation from the Internal Drainage Board for intensive maintenance work on both the Stagholt and Oldend Lane Playing Field watercourses. Having had an opportunity to examine the quotation Members may now wish to consider this in more detail.

Members present discussed the quotation offered by the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board and Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that their quotation be accepted and the relevant work authorised.

G3/17 Update of Matters Arising (continued)

d) Youth Strategy

Re: Minute Nos. G3/06(e) of 24.5.10; F3/78(e) of 19.4.10; F3/69(e) of 1.3.10; F3/58(e) of 18.1.10; F3/49(e) of 16.11.09; F3/32 of 7.9.09

For Members' information: The Town Clerk has received an e:mail communication from Lyn Speak (Gloucestershire County Council) with regard to the invitation for her to attend a full Town Council meeting to update Members on the progress of the proposed new Youth Centre building.

The response from Lyn Speak indicates that whilst the project is progressing she does not feel that she is yet able to share detailed information – she will get back in further contact as soon as there are more specific details available.

Members present were disappointed with the response from Mrs Speak as they had wished to discuss the youth strategy as a whole rather than the one element of Youth Centre building. After discussion the Town Clerk was instructed to contact the Cabinet Member for Youth Provision at Gloucestershire County Council to express concern about the wider application of youth services in the town.

e) Oldend Lane Playing Field – Boundary Fence

Re: Minute Nos. F3/78(f) of 19.4.10; F3/69(f) of 1.3.10; F3/61(f) of 18.1.10; F3/52 of 16.11.09

Whilst a response is still awaited from the Police with regard to grant funding towards the costs of the new boundary fence Members may wish to note that a local resident has written to the Town Council to raise awareness of a recent incident involving two young children coming out of one of the accesses into the Oldend Lane Playing Field.

The Town Clerk advised Members present that he had still not received final advices from the Police regarding any allocation of a grant from the BCU Fund. Members present therefore deferred this item until a decision had been made.

f) Oldend Lane Playing Field Site

Re: Minute Nos. G3/06(g) of 24.5.10; F3/78(g) of 19.4.10; F3/72(a) of 1.3.10

i) Stonehouse Town Football Club

Full Town Council at their last meeting, agreed to a 12 month temporary extension of the Lease subject to an increased rental of £600 and improvement requirements to the stadium. Members wish to discuss what these improvements should include so that the Football Club can be advised of the full terms of this extension.

STFC have forwarded a draft planning application for the permanent siting of the container on the old Clubhouse plinth. Members may wish to discuss whether this is a desirable addition to the stadium.

Members present discussed the proposal to extend the Lease for a further temporary period of 12 months subject to terms and conditions. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Stonehouse Town Football Club advising them that the rent would be increased to £600 with effect from 1st September 2010 and that isolation of the football stadium by means of fencing enclosure should be completed by 28th February 2011 at which time a review will be undertaken by the Committee.

G3/17 Update of Matters Arising (continued)

f) i) Stonehouse Town Football Club (cont'd)

With regard to the draft planning application for the permanent siting of the container on the old Clubhouse plinth, Members present, whilst disappointed that this was placed without prior permission, agreed not to resist a full planning application.

ii) Magpies Social Club

Following the recent appointment of a new Chairman of the Social Club Committee, the Town Clerk has received an e:mail expressing a wish to meet and discuss the Club's future with the Town Council. It is hoped that a preliminary report will have been received prior to the Committee meeting for discussion by Members.

The Town Clerk advised Members present that unfortunately a report had not been received from the new Chairman of the Social Club Committee. Members present discussed the current situation and requested the Town Clerk to arrange to meet with the Chairman.

g) Horsetrough Roundabout

Re: Minute Nos. F3/78 of 19.4.10; F3/73 of 1.3.10

The Town Clerk recently attended a joint meeting with County Council's Highways and District Council Officers to consider the extent of work that could be undertaken on the roundabout to improve its general appearance. The Town Clerk will report to the Committee accordingly.

The Town Clerk gave Members present an update regarding the current situation on adoption/work on the roundabout. He informed Members that he is currently in contact with Stroud District Council and will advise Members as the situation develops.

G3/18 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010

It was agreed at the last Committee meeting that Members would come into the Town Hall to examine the three quotations that had been received for the installation, dismantling and purchase of lighting for the 2010 Christmas season. To date this course of action is still to be undertaken.

Members present discussed the way forward for awarding the contract for the 2010 Christmas lighting. After discussion Members Resolved to request Councillor Brine and the Town Clerk to examine the quotations further and that they be given the delegated powers to award the contract accordingly.

G3/19 CANAL MATTERS

Members may recall that when the 2010/2011 budgets were set it was agreed to include £3,000 for canal site projects. A communication has been received from Mr Jim Dickson regarding clearance works, to improve an area by Skew Bridge, that are due to be undertaken by volunteers on 11th July 2010.

Continued -

G3/19 Canal Matters (continued)

Whilst the Canals Trust volunteers will be provided with hi-viz jackets and helmets, they will not be given steel toecap safety shoes (which apparently are mandatory to comply with the requirements of their liability insurance). Mr Dickson is therefore enquiring whether the Town Council would cover the cost of the footwear from the budget set aside for canal projects?

The Town Clerk advised that a group of workers from Unite were commencing work on the project on the 6th July 2010 and a further Work Party would be organised for the weekend of 10th/11th July. It was agreed that financial assistance would be given within the limits already agreed by Town Council to support this project.

G3/20 STAFFING

The Staffing Working Group met on 21st June 2010 – see enclosed notes.

Councillor Brine, a member of the Staffing Working Group, advised Members present that discussions were ongoing regarding sickness cover for staff and this would be considered in more detail at the next Working Group meeting and reported to the Committee accordingly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.
