

Minutes – subject to acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee – to be held on Monday 1st March 2010

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2010 IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present: Councillors G Powell (Convenor of Committee)
Mrs S Latchford (Vice Chair of Town Council)
J Aldis
V Kempt

In Attendance: Councillor S Lewis
R A Lacey – Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Mrs M Ross (Chair of Town Council)

F3/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) declared a possible interest in item F3/61 – Oldend Lane Playing Field Boundary Fence and therefore took no part in the discussion on that item.

F3/56 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2009

A copy of the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16th November 2009 is attached for approval.

Members present Resolved to approve the Minutes as recorded.

F3/57 TOWN COUNCIL – CARBON REDUCTION

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

Members present noted this.

F3/58 UPDATE OF MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Allotments

Members will be advised that it was agreed that no inspections would be carried out in January or February each year.

Members present acknowledged that there would be no inspections in January or February each year. Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) asked the Town Clerk to advise regarding the progress of the Starter Plots and this referred to in item F3/58(d) – Water-courses.

b) Progress Check on Previously Agreed Actions

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

Members present considered the list of Committee actions and noted any amendments. A copy of the list is enclosed for information.

c) Oldend Lane Playing Field – Car Park Security/Town Council Facilities

Re: Minute Nos. F3/49(c) of 16.11.09; F3/39(c) of 5.10.09; F3/25(c) of 7.9.09; F3/05(d) of 15.6.09; E3/188(c) of 9.3.09; E3/169(c) of 26.1.09

Quotations are awaited from three contractors for creating the final exit door at the front of the building within the compound.

Members present were advised that the relevant quotations were not yet available and would be referred to the next Committee meeting.

d) Stagholt/Oldend Lane Playing Fields – Watercourses

Re: Minute Nos. 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; E3/188(d) of 27.4.09; E3/176(d) of 9.3.09

The Water 21 report on possible flood alleviation works for Stagholt is still outstanding but will be submitted to the Committee on receipt.

With reference to flood alleviation works the Town Clerk reported that no contact had been made by Water 21. Members present considered that remedial works should be investigated and the Town Clerk suggested that a flood attenuation pond at the bottom of the site, near the grille, would compliment the contours of the ground. A section of the bank could be scraped off to allow water to go into the holding area when the stream was flooding and thus flash flood risk could pass through. Any excess soil taken from the proposed starter plots could be used to reinforce the banks of such a structure. Members present instructed the Town Clerk to cost the works.

e) Youth Strategy

Re: Minute No. F3/49(e) of 16.11.09; F3/32 of 7.9.09

i) Following the decision at full Town Council the Working Group is shortly to meet and discuss youth facilities. A report will be given accordingly.

Members present were advised that a meeting is to be held on 27th January 2010 and a further one on the 4th February to urgently discuss this matter.

ii) Members may also wish to agree costings for a perspex cover to the mural at a cost of £64.00 + VAT and arrange for a suitable handing over ceremony by VOYS in front of the press.

Members present Resolved to fund the perspex cover for the mural and instructed the Town Clerk to act accordingly.

f) Town Walks

Re: Minute Nos. F3/49(f) of 16.11.09; F3/33 of 7.9.09

Members will be advised that other organisations are being approached to pool details of suitable walks in the town.

Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) advised Members that the Women's Institute and Wycliffe College had been approached to give details of research carried out in this respect. It was noted that Stonehouse Partnership had already been offered three grants towards the production of Town Walk leaflets and Members present Resolved to refer the two other groups to them to carry the project forward.

F3/59 STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM 2010

The Town Clerk will present to the meeting a summary of costs and income from the 2009 displays. Members may also wish to discuss other possible works in the High Street to enhance the floral displays.

Members present examined the summary provided by the Town Clerk on the income and expenses for Stonehouse In Bloom 2009/2010. Members present Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that Councillor Powell be instructed to create a planting scheme for the gardens by the War Memorial in preparation for Summer 2010.

Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) also outlined thoughts for the removal/replacement of part of the fencing separating the Willow Tree Green from the Globe Inn access road. The Town Clerk was requested to ascertain ownership of this fence and report back to the Committee.

F3/60 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010

Members may wish to discuss proposals for extending the Christmas lights display received from Gala Lights. The three year contract with LITE has now expired.

Members present discussed the proposals received from Gala Lights and Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that the following specification of lights be offered out to tender for the Christmas 2010 season:

7 x Business premises to mount motifs based on the existing designs erected on lighting columns for Christmas 2009.

2 x Trees on the Town Green outside the High Street Medical Centre to be lit.

1 x Across the street feature from D H Hurns to Broomhalls

A full summary of approximate costs from Gala Lights (subject to survey and detailed quotations) is enclosed with these Minutes.

F3/61 OLDEND LANE PLAYING FIELD – BOUNDARY FENCE

Re: Minute No. F3/52 of 16.11.09

Following the previous Committee meeting updated quotations have been requested from potential contractors and will be available at the meeting for discussion.

Following his possible declaration of interest Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) requested Councillor Mrs Latchford (Vice Chair of Town Council) to Chair this item and withdrew.

Those Members then present discussed the summary of four quotations offered in respect of this work and Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that the submission from D Smart for a 25mm tube high vandal prevention bow-top fencing be authorised at £10,487.39. The Town Clerk was authorised to continue to ascertain grant funding towards this safety fencing.

Councillor Powell (Convenor of Committee) returned to Chair the remainder of the meeting.

F3/62 WILLOW TREE – TOWN GREEN

Members may be aware that it is a condition of the Town Council's insurance policy that the Willow tree on the Green has to be pollarded on a regular basis. However, it has also been noted by a specialist contractor that there is evidence of disease to the trunk and urgent remedial work is recommended to try and save the tree. Total cost £258.00 + VAT.

Members present authorised this work to protect the Willow Tree.

F3/63 STAGHOLT PLAYING FIELD-REQUESTS FOR USE OF PREMISES

Members present discussed the Working Group's actions in respect of the premises known as Stagholt Pavilion and considered the following options where prolonged use of the building had been requested. It should be noted, however, that any such usage would be considered temporary and dependent on final deliberations for permanent future for these premises.

i) Five Valley Sounds

Stroud's Talking Newspaper is shortly to be homeless and would like the Town Council to consider renting part of the Stagholt pavilion to them on a permanent basis. As a registered charity they are financially unable to offer a full commercial rent and Members may wish to consider their application in this light.

Members present were sympathetic to the plight of Five Valley Sounds and their immediate future. Whilst not being able to offer a permanent solution at present it was Resolved to offer availability of the pavilion to the Group for six months to enable them to plan their short term future.

ii) The Old Dodderers Touch Rugby Club

On a similar basis the Old Dodderers who currently rent the playing field for 1 ½ hours on Sunday mornings would like to regard the pavilion as their Clubhouse. Again rental income would be very modest although they promise to care for the building and Members may wish to consider this also.

Members present considered this application in the light of the written submission by the Old Dodderers. It was considered unacceptable for such a small rental value and the Town Clerk was instructed to advise the Club of the current rental figures for such a facility.

F3/64 "SHIP INN" SITE

At the December Town Council meeting it was requested that this be included on the Agenda. It seems likely that Gloucestershire County Council will be handing over the site to Stroud District Council in view of their "ownership" of the canal project. Members may wish to discuss whether they should contact Stroud District Council to try and influence future use of this site for the benefit of the canal and in the general public interest.

Members present discussed the future of this site and Resolved to instruct the Town Clerk to write to Paul Coupe (Canal Project Manager) at Stroud District Council advising him of the Town Council concern regarding the future of the Ship Inn site and expressing interest in becoming involved in deliberations for progress at this location.

F3/65 STAFFING

The Staffing Working Group met on the 13th January 2010 and propose the following Recommendation to Committee:

That Andrew Bignell be offered a further temporary contract from 1st April to 30th April 2010. This would allow for adequate staffing levels to be in place for the first two months of the grasscutting season. The Working Group will meet again on 3rd February 2010 to further discuss the current vacancy for a member of the groundstaff team and will bring further recommendations to the Committee in due course.

Members present Resolved to Recommend to full Town Council that Andrew Bignell be offered a further contract from 1st April to 30th April 2010. Members present requested that a further report be issued at the next Town Council following the Staffing meeting on 3rd February 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.
