

# DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at Downton Library, High Street, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Brentor (Chairman) and Cllrs Cordell, Dean, Pearce, Sutcliffe, Watts and Whitmarsh.  
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Four members of the public were present.

### **Public Question Time:**

Mrs Elaine Holme said she had been very grateful to the Parish Council for acting on her request to remove the brambles and undergrowth on the boundary between her property and the Moot Lane Recreation Ground. However, she said she was now concerned that the considerable amount of debris which remained was a possible fire hazard and asked that it be removed.

Mrs Joyce England asked if the Committee could carry out further work to the conifer trees which were on the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground as, following their reduction in height by 30 percent in 2014, they had now grown out from the lower branches which impacted on the small gardens of the adjacent properties. She also said that the state of the Recreation Ground's boundary with the properties was a disgrace, should be cleared and a new fence installed which would improve the security. She said she had taken some photographs but had been unable to send them from her computer.

Mr Hamish Ross stated that if the Committee accepted the information provided by the Moot Lane Sports Club, a bank account would be opened the following day, the secretary appointed and affiliation with sporting organisations effected. It could then provide any further information required in order to gain approval from Full Council for the leasing of the Pavilion and the use of the sports field in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.

**Amen 01.16 To resolve to elect a Chairman for 2016/17:** Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Brentor be elected as Chairman for 2016/17. She said she valued members' confidence in her and said she was looking forward to working with them.

**Amen 02.16 To resolve to consider and approve the Terms of Reference for the Committee for 2016/17:** Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference be approved and that they be renewed once a decision had been taken on the future of the Moot Lane Pavilion.

**Amen 03.16 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Brentor reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs Hayward and Mace.

**Amen 04.16 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016:** Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**Amen 05.16 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011:** Cllr Watts declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute Amen 07.16.

**Amen 06.16 To consider a quote of £235 from Salisbury Window Cleaning Services to clear, weed and sweep the bus shelters at the same time as the glass is cleaned:** Following a brief discussion and confirmation from Cllr Whitmarsh that she would continue to inspect the bus shelters on a regular basis, Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was RESOLVED that the one off quote of £235 be approved to tidy and clear the bus shelters. The Clerk advised that future quotes would be lower if the work continued to be done on a regular basis.

**Amen 07.16 To consider the business plan submitted by the Downton Moot Lane Sports Club, to resolve to make a recommendation to the Parish Council and to consider any further actions or recommendations to be made in terms of the future of the Moot Lane Pavilion:** A lengthy debate ensued with Cllr Brentor advising Cllr Watts that the paper submitted was inadequate and had not met the requirements of Resolution Amen15/23 made by the Committee at the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016. She asked for the reasons why the Moot Lane Sports Club had not provided the information asked for, as it was now a year since the Committee had resolved to take a decision on the future of the Pavilion. However, Cllr Watts did not provide a clear explanation but advised of the money already promised, the names of some of the officers of the organisation and the sports to be played.

The Clerk advised that the Unincorporated Association formed by the Moot Lane Sports Club was not legally entitled or able to enter into a lease and she suggested that the organisation consider forming a Community Amateur Sports Club which was an entity able to attract and be awarded funding. She said there was considerable information on this on the web and further information on setting up a sports club was available on the Sport England website.

Cllr Pearce provided information and suggestions on the writing of a business plan and Cllr Sutcliffe advised that the officers of the organisation needed to be competent and acceptable to the Parish Council. Cllr Brentor advised that grants from the Football Association almost always required a 50 percent contribution.

Following further discussion, Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and with 1 abstention from Cllr Watts, it was RESOLVED that:

- 1 Cllr Watts would talk to the members of the organisation regarding the business plan and advise Cllr Brentor of the length of time it was likely to take to draft.
- 2 A draft should be submitted for initial review to Cllr Sutcliffe to ensure it contained all the required information before it was submitted to all members of the Committee.
- 3 A meeting of the Committee was to be set up by the Clerk within 2 weeks of its submission.

**Amen 08.16 To consider any actions to be taken with regard to the trees and undergrowth along the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground with the dwellings in Castle Meadow following concerns raised by residents:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should arrange for the lower branches of the conifer trees to be reduced, the scrub to be removed and a new fence to be erected on the agreed boundary between the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and the properties in Castle Meadow. The Clerk agreed to coordinate the removal of the scrub with the erection of the fence to maintain the security of the gardens to the properties.

**Amen 09.16 To consider a request from the Downton Society to install a double bin outside the Pharmacy in the High Street and to make a recommendation to the Parish Council:** Following a discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed from the chair that the Clerk should investigate the cost of purchasing a double bin for outside the Pharmacy and also for outside the Co-op.

The Clerk advised that she would contact Wiltshire Council to establish whether its contractor would empty the double bins at no charge to the Parish Council if the Parish Council purchased them and paid for their installation.

The Clerk also agreed to:

- 1 Contact The Landscape Group about the unemptied bin in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.
- 2 Work with Cllr Sutcliffe on investigating more robust bins for the Moot Lane Recreation Ground to replace the existing vandalised bins.

**Amen 10.16 To consider the action to be taken with regard to the lack of refuse bins in the northern laybys on the A338:** The Clerk agreed to contact Wiltshire Council to enquire whether any litter bins could be installed in the laybys.

**Amen 11.16 To consider a proposal from Cllr Mace to remove the Kick Wall in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground in view of its minimal use and the frequent prevalence of broken glass on the hard-standing area beside the wall and to make a recommendation to the Parish Council:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that no action be taken at this time but this decision be reviewed in 6 months. Cllr Watts agreed to remove broken glass if he was told about it. The Clerk agreed to advise the Parish Council's Litter Pickers to notify her when they identified glass by the Kick Wall.

**Amen 12.16 To consider and agree on how the actions for the Amenities Committee as defined in the 3 Year Management Strategy are to be implemented:** Cllr Brentor circulated a table of actions to all members and the actions were allocated to councillors to investigate or carry out. It was agreed that the Chairman would walk around the parish with Clerk to assess how some of the actions could be carried out. Cllr Brentor advised that she would circulate an updated table of actions showing which councillors were working on them and this would be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Amen 13.16 Next meeting:** It was agreed that this should await guidance from Cllr Watts on the submission of business plan for the Moot Lane Sports Club.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.