



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 25th July 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

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

Six members of the public were present.

Public Question Time:

Mr Peter Hudson reported that he had spoken to the Clerk and had met with Cllr Cordell regarding an overgrown yew tree at the end of Joanna Close where he lived. He said it was so overgrown that the mechanical sweeper could no longer clear the needles and the growth of the tree was now blocking the emergency exit to the rear of West Wick and the rest of the Redrow development. He said it would not be possible for a fire engine to gain access.

The Clerk advised that she had reported it to Wiltshire Council and would continue to pursue the need for the emergency access to be cleared.

Amen 14.16 To receive apologies for absence: None.

Amen 15.16 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2016: Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Amen 16.16 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011: Cllr Brentor declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in the Downton Green Group.

Amen 17.16 To resolve to note the matters arising from the Minutes: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair that the progress of the following matters raised at the last meeting be noted:

Amen 06.16 Weeding and Sweeping of Bus Shelters: Salisbury Window Cleaning Services had been instructed to do this but the contractor had fractured his ankle in early June so this work may be delayed.

Amen 08.16 Trees and undergrowth along the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground: The Clerk had submitted an application for tree works in a conservation area to be carried out and this was being processed by Wiltshire Council.

Tim Goldfinch of Active Tree Care had quoted £1,000 to remove undergrowth and carry out work to remove lower branches of conifer trees up to a height of 12 feet. Matt Johnson was not able to carry out work to the fence which will be to a length of approximately 90 metres until after the end of August so both will be coordinated to carry out the work in early September as it would cause disruption to the recreation ground during the school summer holidays.

Amen 09.16: Double bins for Pharmacy and Memorial Gardens: Two double bins with one half litter and the other for recycling had been ordered from Broxap and were due to arrive around 12th August. The Clerk had contacted Mr Bob Moody about the relocating of the existing single metal bin in the Memorial Gardens up to the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and he will do it when the other bins arrive. The Clerk had still not received a response from 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.

Amen 10.16 Lack of refuse bins in the northern laybys on the A338: The Clerk was still awaiting a response.

Amen 18.16 To consider the response from Downton Moot Lane Sports Club, following a request for a business plan prior to entering into discussions on leasing the Pavilion, and to resolve to make recommendations to the Parish Council in terms of the future of the Moot Lane Pavilion and on any other actions to be taken: Cllr Watts, speaking on behalf of Moot Lane Sports Club, reported that the group had decided not to pursue the leasing of the Pavilion because, following meetings with Sport England and the National Lottery, it was clear that it would be better for the Parish Council to pursue the project with the aim of applying for 100 percent funding for a new facility.

Following a lengthy discussion and questions from members about the possibility of 100 percent funding and interest from potential users, Cllr Watts, said that this was available as were smaller amounts of funding and match funding. He also said that a number of organisations had expressed an interest in using the new facility.

Cllr Brentor queried that for some of the suggested sports set out in the paper submitted by the group to the last meeting, such as petanque and croquet, the pavilion was not required. Cllr Watts said that by registering with the Croquet Association, clubs had to commit to preparing a certain standard of lawn and to have certain refreshment facilities.

Cllr Brentor said that committing to providing a new facility would involve a tremendous amount of work and asked members whether they would be committed to doing it.

Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council to demolish the Pavilion and that a Working Group be set up to consider the future use of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and the potential for a new pavilion.

Cllr Mace asked Cllr Watts and Cllr Watts agreed that the information so far gathered on funding and new facilities by the Moot Lane Sports Club could be passed to the Parish Council.

Amen 19.16 To receive a short verbal report from the Chairman on the progress of the Footbridge Project and to agree on the revised membership of the Project's Working Group: Cllr Brentor gave a brief report on a recent meeting with the residents of South Lane. She said that following the 'approval in principle' from Longford Estates, there was a considerable amount of work to be done through either more involvement from the Amenities Committee or through a separately formed committee consisting of members and interested residents.

Cllr Mace asked that the formation of a new committee be considered by the Staffing Committee before it was agreed as this would impact on the Clerk's working hours and role.

Cllr Brentor said that the current Working Group had a membership of Mr Ian Campbell, Ms Susan Barnhurst-Davies, Mr Ross, Mrs Hilary Mace and Cllrs Whitmarsh and Watts. She said Cllrs Ford and Quarmby had agreed to provide expertise in relation to risk and the Environment Agency and Mr Campbell considered that the lead in the project should no longer come from him but from the Parish Council.

Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that the revised Working Group be formed in the interim and prior to consideration by the Staffing Committee of the proposal to set up a new Committee for the Footbridge project.

Amen 20.16 To receive and resolve to note an update on the Amenities elements of the Strategic Plan and resulting activities: Cllr Brentor reported on the work in progress or completed from the Plan. She said that she had toured with the Clerk all the areas of the parish for which the Amenities Committee was responsible and had identified, either on the reports from the Playground Inspector or from the tour, where work needed to be done. She said that Clerk was following all the actions identified including the setting up of a Community Emergency Volunteer Team to assist with the soon to be re-adopted Downton Emergency Plan.

Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that the activities be noted.

Amen 21.16 To consider and resolve to agree on any actions to be taken as a result of the report submitted by the Downton Green Group: A letter sent by Mrs Chris Carter on behalf of the Downton Green Group was considered at length. Members were supportive of the principles behind the Group's proposals and thought that the ideas of two litter picks a year and a quarterly 'recycle, reuse, repair' event were good and should be pursued.

The following issues were considered:

- Green energy - Cllr Sutcliffe agreeing to raise the issue of solar tiles or panels on the new extension to the Memorial Hall with the architect.
- Allotments - Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair to open the meeting to consider concerns from members of the public.

Mr Jeremy Parsons reported that work needed to be done with the Allotment Committee to ensure that it held regular meetings and that it dealt with allotment holders who allowed their plots to become overgrown. He said this had been raised by allotment holders with the Committee for years but nothing had been done.

Cllr Brentor said she would work with Cllr Watts and at least one member of community to write to the Association on the matters raised.

- The clearing of weeds and undergrowth in various areas of the village. Cllr Hayward advised of work needing to be done around the boundary of the play area in West Wick. Cllr Brentor said she would set up a working party.
- A request will be made to the Downton Green Group for more information with regard to environmental planting and Cllr Brentor will respond to the Green Group's paper in writing.

Cllr Whitmarsh proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Committee would consider the environmental impact when taking its decisions in the future.

Amen 22.16 To resolve to approve the setting up of a Working Group, its membership and terms of reference to consider the issue of parking in the parish: Cllr Brentor advised that this had been delegated from the Parish Council and she had asked a number of residents who had raised the issue of parking to join it. She circulated a set of Terms of Reference for consideration.

Cllrs Saxby and Hayward agreed to be members and Cllr Brentor said she would ask Cllr Yeates to join as the Parish Council's representative on the Community Area Transport Group.

Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference be approved and the Working Group be set up.

Amen 23.16 Date of next meeting: Monday 26th September 2016 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.