



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 26th September 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

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

One member of the public was present.

Public Question Time:

Ms Susan Barnhurst-Davies advised that the Downton Society Walking Group would be pleased to work in partnership with the Committee to ensure that the footpaths are maintained and used. She said that in the past the Rights of Way Committee had obtained funding through the Path Improvement Grant Scheme (PIG) for the replacement of stiles with kissing gates on some of the footpaths and the Group would wish to continue with this work as well as to ensure the footpaths are clear.

Cllr Brentor thanked Ms Barnhurst-Davies and the Walking Group for their offer which would be considered later in the meeting.

Amen 24.16 To receive apologies for absence: The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs Mace, Pearce and Sutcliffe.

Amen 25.16 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Amen 26.16 Declarations of Interest:

a. **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:**

No declarations of interest were received.

b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:**

No dispensation requests had been received by the Clerk.

Amen 27.16 To resolve to note the matters arising and actions taken from the Minutes: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair that the progress of the following matters raised at the last meeting be noted:

Public Question Time: Trees in Joanna Close and Marie Avenue: The Clerk had reported them online and then to the Tree Officer who had passed the issue to a colleague who had then passed the issue to the Wiltshire Council Tree team. The Clerk was awaiting the outcome.

Amen 06.16 Weeding and Sweeping of Bus Shelters: Salisbury Window Cleaning Services had cleaned, weeded and swept the bus shelters. Cllr Whitmarsh said she would carry out an inspection.

Amen 08.16 Trees and undergrowth along the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground: The application for tree works in a conservation area had been approved by Wiltshire Council and Active Tree Care would be carrying out the work to the trees on 7th November.

Johnson Fencing was unable to carry out the work to the fence as Matt Johnson had an operation and could not work for two months. The Clerk was trying to obtain quotes from other companies.

Amen 09.16: Double bins for Pharmacy and Memorial Gardens: The double bin had been installed in the Memorial Gardens with the single bin in situ being relocated up to the Moot Lane Rec. The other double bin would be installed outside the Co-op shortly and the delivery of the slimline double bin for outside the pharmacy was awaited.

Amen 18.16: Moot Lane Pavilion: Following the Parish Council's decision, the Clerk had contacted Wessex Water, Bournemouth Water and SSE regarding the utility services being stopped. SSE would be removing the electricity metre on 5th October and the clerk was meeting with a demolition contractor on Thursday 6th October regarding a quote for demolition.

Amen 21.16 Downton Allotments: Following a letter being sent to the Chair, the Committee members had resigned and a new Committee elected which would be addressing the issues raised by the Amenities Committee.

Tidy up working party: Cllr Brentor said that some of the work could be done by the Parish Steward from Wiltshire Council who would be coming to the parish on 12th and 13th October. She said the Clerk would circulate a list of tasks they could carry out and asked members to contact her when they had identify locations and tasks around the parish which could be added to the list being compiled.

Amen 22.16 Parking Working Group: The Chair advised that the Parking Working Group had held a very productive meeting. She would be meeting with the Highways Engineer from Wiltshire Council shortly to seek advice on implementing some of the suggestions put forward by the Group.

Amen 28.16 To resolve to agree on any actions to implement the demolition of the Moot Lane Pavilion: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Whitmarsh proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Dean would work with the Clerk to identify and obtain two further quotes for consideration by the Parish Council at its next meeting on 10th October.

Amen 29.16 To resolve to approve the membership and terms of reference of the Working Group to consider the future of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and the potential replacement of the Pavilion: Following a discussion, Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllrs Dean, Hayward, Pearce and Watts together with Mr Ross and Mr Spedding be approved as members of the Working Group under the terms of reference circulated by Cllr Brentor and approved by the Committee. Cllr Brentor said she would be happy to attend the first meeting of the Working Group.

Cllr Watts said that the fund of £6,800 which had been put up by himself, Mr Ross and Mr Spedding at the time when the Downton Moot Lane Sports Club was formed, could be used to assist with the project to replace the Pavilion.

Amen 30.16 To consider a request from the Downton Society for the Parish Council to pay for the pollarding of the Willow Trees overhanging the footpath on Tannery Bridge which block access for pedestrians and visibility for parked cars: Following a short explanation from Cllr Brentor, Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that the Clerk should:

1. Obtain quotes and seek 'trees in a conservation area' approval for the trees to be pollarded;
2. Notify the owner of the land of the issues of health and safety with the trees and the requirement to pollard them. She should set a deadline by which time the work should be done before the Parish Council carries out the work. If they are not pollarded by the deadline, then the Parish Council should carry out the work and send the bill to the landowner.

Amen 31.16 To resolve to agree to delegate to the Downton Society Footpath Group the promotion of the use of the parish footpaths and the identification of issues requiring maintenance or repair which are to be reported back to the Amenities Committee: Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Saxby seconded and it was RESOLVED that the promotion of the use of the parish footpaths and the identification of issues requiring maintenance or repair be delegated to the Downton Society Footpath Group.

Amen 32.16 To resolve to agree to apply through the National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant scheme for several pieces of static fitness equipment and to agree on their location: Following a brief explanation from the Clerk, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council to apply for National Lottery funding and that the Committee consider the specific items to be added to the application and their potential location following information being sent by the Clerk on websites giving examples and details of outdoor fitness equipment.

Amen 33.16 To consider the Amenities elements of the Strategic Plan and resolve to agree on the projects to be carried out in the next financial year: Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the adopted plan:

1. A noticeboard to be erected in Moot Lane.
2. Recycle, Re-use and repair events be held at the Memorial Hall with the financial support of the Parish Council
3. The Amenities Committee to work with the Guides and Scouts and to assist with the purchase of gardening equipment in order to maintain the gardens of vulnerable and elderly residents.

Amen 34.16 To resolve to agree on the Amenities budget for 2017/18 to be submitted for consideration by the Budget Working Group: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that costings for the projects suggested in Minute 33.16 be included in the Amenities budget.

Amen 35.16 Next meeting: Monday 28th November 2016 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.