



**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Brentor (Chair) and Cllrs Cordell, Mace, Pearce, Saxby, Sutcliffe and Watts.

Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public were present.

**Public Question Time:**

Mrs Jessica Sims spoke on behalf of herself and several parents of young children who used the play areas. She said that there was concern about the safety of some of the equipment in the Memorial Gardens, in particular the slide, the rocket and the roundabout and also the gate. She also said that parents would like some play equipment which was suitable for pre-school children in the Memorial Gardens as most of the equipment was suitable only for older children. She said the roundabout was too stiff for children to push and parents wanted it to be removed and replaced by a different more suitable piece of equipment.

The Clerk advised that the playgrounds were inspected weekly by councillors and twice a year by a professional playground inspection company. The company had not advised the Parish Council that the equipment was unsafe, otherwise it would not be able to continue to be in use. She said that some of the equipment was not suitable for very young children, so parents supervising their children should not allow them to use equipment for which they were either too small or not old enough to use.

**15.17 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Brentor advised that Cllr Ricketts was absent due to a holiday commitment.

**16.17 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 be approved and signed.

**17.17 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.**

The Clerk advised that no dispensation requests had been received.

**18.17 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:

***Amen 30.16 Trees and undergrowth along the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground:*** At the request of the resident, this work had been delayed until 4<sup>th</sup> September.

***Amen 42.16 Bridge project:*** At the recent meeting of the Bridge Working Group it was agreed that the repairs to footpath 66 would be followed up and funded by a Path Improvement Grant and the costs of second hand bridges would be investigated as well as the seeking estimated costs for new bridges from several bridge contractors.

***Amen 50.16: Play Inspection Reports:*** During inspection of the Moot Recreation play equipment, Cllr Brentor said that she had looked at the goal posts and found them to be deeply rusted and unlikely to benefit from repainting. The more cost effective action was to replace as costs to do so were relatively low.

***Amen 07.17 Downton Circular Path:*** Cllr Brentor advised that she had met with Susan Barnhurst-Davies regarding the plans for the circular path launch which would take place in September depending on actions still outstanding and support from Wiltshire Council. She said it was hoped that Councillors would help in distributing leaflets for the launch.

***Amen 13.17 Moot Lane Recreation Ground Working Group:*** Cllr Brentor said that she had spoken with Cllr Watts who had rightly pointed out that the two councillors who had been willing to be involved were no longer councillors and therefore any recommendations that could be had from setting up a meeting might be seen to be biased if just coming from those already involved from the past. As there was nearly a full complement of councillors on the Parish Council she said that perhaps this could be re-established if two new councillors were willing to become members and she would attend the first meeting to establish the Terms of Reference which had already been agreed.

**19.17 To consider a further complaint about dog fouling, this time in Hyde Lane and the surrounding pavements, and to resolve to agree on any actions to reduce it:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that additional 'no dog fouling' signs and pink spray should be purchased and that an article 'on the dangers of not picking up after your dog' should be submitted to the next InDownton Newsletter.

**20.17 To consider and make recommendations on whether the Parish Council should take part in the Wiltshire Council Tree Planting project which will commence in 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War:** Following a suggestion from the Clerk and a reminder from Cllr Sutcliffe that the Parish Council had agreed to plant some replacement trees in the Memorial Gardens, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be put to the Parish Council that a tree be planted across the parish for every soldier who had died in the First World War and was listed on the Downton War Memorial.

It was also agreed that a brief leaflet be produced, in partnership with the Royal British Legion, showing the types and locations of the trees. Cllr Watts agreed to work on the project with the Clerk and any other councillor who wished to be part of a Working Group to be formed for the project.

**21.17 To resolve to finalise the pieces of adult exercise equipment which will be submitted as part of the National Lottery Awards for All application:**

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should put forward a fitness trail to the combined value of £10,000 when purchased and installed and which would provide a selection of different pieces of equipment.

**22.17 To receive a short verbal update from Cllr Brentor on the project to select suitable play equipment for older children in the western part of the Downton and to resolve to make any recommendations to the Parish Council:**

Cllr Brentor advised that the Clerk had obtained a quote for two ground level trampolines which could be installed on the play area located behind the football pitch in Wick Lane. Following a lengthy discussion and a suggestion from the Clerk, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Committee should carry out a site visit of both the Wick Lane and Memorial Gardens play areas which was scheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 6 pm.

The Committee discussed the request put forward by the member of the public to provide equipment for younger children in the Memorial Gardens. The Clerk was asked to investigate a piece of equipment which was suitable for younger children and which was similar to but smaller than the Pirate Ship installed in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground. It was agreed that, if necessary, the roundabout could be removed to provide sufficient room for the chosen piece of equipment.

**23.17 To receive a short verbal report from Cllr Saxby on a meeting with the Flood Resilience Officer at Wiltshire Council and to resolve to approve that delegated approval be given to Cllr Saxby, the Chair and the Clerk regarding the submission of an application to the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund for flood prevention and relief equipment:**

Cllr Saxby gave a detailed report on a very interesting and useful meeting held with Ms Renate Malton of Wiltshire Council and Kayleigh Lynch of the Environment Agency. She said they had given her and the Clerk guidance on revising the Flood Plan, setting up a Community Emergency Volunteer Scheme and on pieces of equipment for the grant such as gel sacs, a pump and generator, flood warden packs, waterproof clothing and radios. Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllrs Brentor and Saxby together with the Clerk be delegated the authority to submit an application to the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund on behalf of the Parish Council.

**24.17 To consider a request from the Downton Society to improve the appearance of the ground at Moot Lane corner:**

Cllr Brentor advised that the Downton Society wished to carry out some minor pruning work to the horse chestnut tree and to plant 1500 daffodil bulbs in several waves which would provide flowers from March to May. Following a brief discussion, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that this be approved subject to the Clerk obtaining no objection from Mr Graham Axtell at Wiltshire Council which owned the land.

**25.17 To consider and resolve to agree the actions to be taken to address the erosion of the edges of The Borough Greens:** Following a suggestion from Cllr Mace, he proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should alert Mr Alasdair Jones-Perrott at Longford Estates to the erosion and ask whether the Estates has any repairs in hand to stop it.

**26.17 To review the actions allocated to the Amenities Committee in the 3 year strategy and to make recommendations to the Parish Council regarding any amendments:** Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting and that Cllr Brentor and the Clerk be delegated the responsibility of putting forward suggestions in advance of the next meeting.

**27.17 Next meeting:** Cllr Brentor confirmed that date of the next meeting as Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.