

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 30th June 2015 at 7.30 pm at Downton Library, High Street, Downton.

Present: Cllrs Cordell (Chairman), Dean, Hayward, Mace, Pearce, Ross, Sutcliffe and Whitmarsh.

Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

No members of the public were present.

Amen15/01: To elect a Chairman for 2015/16: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Ross seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that Cllr Cordell be elected as Chairman 2015/16.

Amen15/02: Apologies: Cllr Watts

Amen15/03: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2015: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was agreed by the meeting, with abstentions from Cllrs Hayward and Pearce, that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Amen15/04: Public Question/Statement Time: 10 minutes to receive any questions or statements from members of the public: No questions or statements were received.

Amen15/05: Declarations of Interest: None.

Amen15/06: Matters arising from the minutes:

Amen14/51: Bus Shelters: The Clerk confirmed that the appointed contractor had carried out the first clean of the bus shelters in early April 2015.

Amen15/07: To consider and agree on the location for the purchased Pirate Ship from Mant Leisure to be installed: Cllr Sutcliffe reported that he had visited the Moot Lane Recreation Ground following a report of damage received by the Clerk. He said the sign for the skatepark had been removed from its surround and damaged and the bins had been vandalised, although the rubbish was still contained in them.

Following a discussion, Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was agreed by the meeting with one abstention from Cllr Dean and one objection from Cllr Hayward, that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that the Pirate Ship be installed in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground but in a position which was visible from Castle Meadow.

Amen15/08: To receive a report from Cllr Cordell on a meeting of the Moot Lane Pavilion working group and to consider any actions to be taken: Cllr Cordell gave a detailed report and the options available which were to:

- Leave it as it is; or
- Demolish it; or
- The Working Group should continue to look for organisations to lease it.

Following a lengthy discussion and guidance from the Clerk, Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that a recommendation be made to the Council that it should take no further action other than to make good the roof and that by the end of 2015 a decision be taken on whether to either keep it or remove it. It was also recommended that the sum of £3K be reserved in the Parish Council's accounts to enable either option to be achieved.

Amen15/09: To receive a report from Cllr Whitmarsh on the Rights of Way working group: Following Cllr Whitmarsh's comment that she did not have very much to report, Cllr Mace advised that the Working Group had met with Mr Will Dickson and it had been determined that there were three possible routes across the river. The Group's next step was to survey residents to establish whether there was any merit in providing a bridge across the river and this was to be done in September. After that the group needed to write a business case in response to the letter received from the Land Agent at the Longford Estate to provide justification for a bridge.

Amen15/10: To receive a written report from Cllr Watts on the actions he has taken to ensure the delivery of scrapings to improve the car park and entrance to the Downton allotments: In Cllr Watts's absence, this item was deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Hayward reported that he had fixed the handrail at the allotments.

Amen15/11: To agree on when and how the public seat outside the Co-op is to be re-installed: It was agreed that this would be installed on Sunday 12th July at 10 am and Cllr Dean would liaise with Cllr Cordell.

Amen15/12: To consider and agree on the action to be taken following the reported damage to the bins, skatepark sign, trees and fencing in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground as well as the removal of graffiti: Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Mr Bob Moody about carrying out the work and would report back to the Chairman. Cllr Dean said he would speak with Ian Hamilton about getting an embossed metal sign put onto metal plates so that they were reinforced. It was agreed that no further action should be taken with regard to the damaged fencing behind the skatepark.

Amen15/13: To consider and agree on the obtaining of quotes for the installation of formal information signs to be erected in Memorial Gardens, Redrow and Charlton All Saints play areas in accordance with the playground inspection requirements: Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was agreed that Clerk should seek quotes for the play areas.

Amen15/14: To consider and agree on a date for a working party to clean Iron Bridge and Moulds Bridge: The date was agreed provisionally as Sunday 16th August at 8 am.

Amen15/15: To receive a report from Cllr Ross on the weekly playground inspections for the last quarter and to agree on the process by which any work highlighted by the inspections will be carried out: Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Hayward would carry out weekly inspections of the Redrow play area, Cllr Dean would do Charlton and Cllr Ross the Memorial Gardens and the

Moot Lane Recreation Ground. Cllr Ross agreed to send any concerns to the Clerk on a weekly basis.

Amen15/16: To consider whether to implement a weekly inspection of the bus shelters: Following a request from the Clerk that there ought to be a requirement to inspect the bus shelters on a monthly if not weekly basis so that any repairs could be implemented as soon as they were reported, Cllr Whitmarsh agreed to carry out an inspection of the bus shelters.

Amen15/17: To receive a report from Cllr Cordell on the appointment of a new Street Cleaner and to make any recommendations to the Parish Council: Cllr Cordell reported that he and Cllr Ford had interviewed to very keen students and they had concluded that may worth considering increasing the number of hours to, say, 40 hours per month so that each student could work for 20 hours each. The additional cost for this was £1,270.08 per annum which the Clerk had advised could be taken from reserves. Following a brief discussion, Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that two Street Cleaners are appointed in order to take account of the reduced street cleaning services provided by Wiltshire Council

Amen15/18: Date of the next meeting: Monday 18th January 2016 at 7 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.