



**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.45 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Brentor (Chair) and Cllrs Cordell, Cornell, Mace, Pearce, Ricketts, Sutcliffe and Watts.  
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

One member of the public was present.

**Public Question Time:**

A parishioner requested that the Parish Council consider planting some evergreen trees within the Memorial Gardens in order to provide sufficient screening of the new school buildings and playground to recreate the prior calm and enclosed feel of the Gardens which had been enjoyed by families and other residents over many years.

**52.17 To receive apologies for absence:** No apologies had been received.

**53.17 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved and they were signed by the Chair.

**54.17 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.

**55.17 To resolve to note the matters arising and actions taken from the Minutes:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the progress of the following matters raised at the last meeting be noted:

**32.17 3 Year Strategy:** The 3 year strategy actions in terms of Amenities had been approved by the Parish Council. The review of the remaining actions was awaited.

**34.17 Basketball net relocation:** The base had arrived and the Clerk was awaiting better weather and for it to be less muddy in the Memorial Gardens to install it.

**36.17 Emergency Action plan:** The plan was still a work in progress and subject to the Clerk's other work priorities.

**45.17 Silver birch tree in the Memorial Gardens:** Two contractors have been contacted and the Clerk was awaiting a site visit with each of them and submission of quotes. The Clerk would also like to raise the lower branches of the Yew tree adjacent to the Memorial Hall boundary wall and remove dead wood from the trees along the flood defence bund.

**56.17 To consider a document sent by a resident challenging the demolition of the Moot Lane Pavilion and to resolve to agree on any actions to be taken:**

Following a brief discussion and acknowledgement that the Parish Council had spent a considerable amount of time over 4 years in trying to find users for the building and had taken the decision to demolish in 2016, Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED, with 1 abstention from Cllr Watts, that no further action be taken.

**57.17 To consider a request from a resident to plant some evergreen trees in the Memorial Gardens to screen the new school building and to make any recommendations to the Parish Council:**

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that the sum of £200 be allocated for the purchase of trees and advice be sought from Mr David Mercer on the type of trees to plant and their best locations to plant them in the Gardens.

**58.17 To consider a letter from a resident requesting improvements to be made to the parish's playgrounds and to resolve to agree on any further actions to be taken:**

Following a report from Cllr Brentor that she would be meeting shortly with the resident to discuss their letter, she proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Committee should await the outcome of that meeting and will then consider any recommendations which come out of it after further consideration by the Moot Lane Recreation Ground Working Group.

**59.17 To resolve to note a response from Longford Estates in relation to the kerbing of the Borough Green at the western end of Downton:**

Following a report from Cllr Brentor that Longford Estates do not have sufficient funds at this time but perhaps this is something that they and the Parish Council can discuss in due course, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that this be noted and reviewed again in a year's time.

**60.17 To receive an update from the Clerk on the progress of the application for adult exercise equipment from the Awards for All grant scheme:**

Cllr Brentor advised that action on this by the Clerk was still pending due to greater priorities within her current workload.

**61.17 To consider the lack of progress on the installation of a new post box in the High Street and to resolve to make recommendations to the Parish Council on any further actions to be taken:**

The Clerk advised that no progress had been made on this over the last two years as repeated calls, initially to the general enquiry number whose staff were based in Wales, then to Salisbury Delivery Office yielded nothing other than a response which implied it would be too difficult and too expensive to install a post box to replace the one which had been closed. Following the Clerk's suggestion that a letter be written to the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that it be approved.

**62.17 To receive the actions identified in the recent playground inspection reports and to make any recommendations to the Parish Council with regard to the allocation of expenditure:**

Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that she should work through the recommendations with the Clerk as all the recommendations were low risk and would involve minor repairs by the Parish Council's contractor when the weather improved.

**63.17 To consider a plan for improvements to be made to Downton Cemetery using the allocated reserves:** Following a brief discussion and several councillors suggesting that they visit the cemetery to see what work was required, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**64.17 Working Group Reports:**

**Moot Recreation Ground Working Group:** Cllr Watts gave a brief report on the recent consultation carried out by the Working Group on the potential installation of picnic tables in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the response had been very disappointing and no recommendations should be made until the Working Group had met in 2 weeks' time to decide whether or not to proceed with the plan.

Cllr Brentor reported that following her reading of the Conveyance of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground land dated 1970, she recommended that the Parish Council should seek legal advice on the current validity of the covenants contained in it. Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that this recommendation be put to the Parish Council.

**World War I Tree Planting Project:** Cllr Watts advised that the Clerk had ordered the trees from the Woodland Trust and the Working Group would be meeting soon to determine the final location of the trees once they had been planted and grown in a holding bed over the summer.

**Bridge Project:** Cllr Brentor gave a brief update on the progress of the project. She said the Working Group was about to submit an application for a grant to carry out a feasibility study following receipt of several quotes. It was also planning to carry out some work to Footpath 66 as the Group had received a permit from the Environment Agency and the Rights of Way Officer at Wiltshire Council had confirmed that there was no issue with doing works on public land for which there was no known owner.

**65.17 Next meeting:** Cllr Brentor confirmed that date of the next meeting as Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.