



Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Watts (Chair) and Cllrs Brentor, Jones, Mace and Randall.
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public were present.

60.21 Public Question Time

No questions or statement were received.

61.21 Apologies

None.

62.21 Minutes

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th January as a correct record with 1 abstention from Cllr Mace. They were subsequently signed by the Chair.

63.21 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.

64.21 Matters Arising and Actions Taken

The Committee RESOLVED to note the matters arising and actions taken from the Minutes:

48.18 Emergency Plan: Council approved its format at the July meeting it is on my task list to complete for adoption.

58.18 Defibrillator in Charlton: The defibrillator has been ordered following the 50 percent grant received from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board. An item is on the agenda regarding the refurbishment of the telephone box.

38.20: Street Names Signs: Replacement sign for Warrens Lane awaited.

40.20 Refurbishment of cremated remains are at Downton Cemetery: Specification from Cllr Watts and a spreadsheet showing the tasks to be carried out at the Cemetery in priority order is being drafted.

67.20 & 25.21 Dog Bins: New 110 litre dog bin has been installed and 2 other dog bins will be relocated to site behind the pinch point and to the lamp post opposite Doctors Alley. A new but previously used dog bin has been installed in Wick Lane.

09.21 Downton Memorial Centre: Officers will be meeting with roofing contractors in early May.

11.21 Work to Moot Lane Corner: The tree works and stump grinding have been completed.

15.21 In Bloom Planter Signs: Not currently a priority but will be chased when officers have more time.

26.21 Cemetery Fencing: Statement is on the Clerk's task list to be completed when she has more time.

53.21 Burials at Downton Cemetery The investigation into the eligibility provided by other town and parishes is ongoing. A report will be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

56.21 Street Name Restoration Project: Cllr Hall and Paul Cornish have refurbished a number of signs in the Wick Estate area, Headlands, Long Close West and Slab Lane. Work is continuing as they become more proficient in the process. More volunteers are needed and the Administrative officer has contacted the Downton Society to see whether this is something in which their members might be interested in getting involved.

58.21 Electrical Inspection of Public Toilets: Dave Watton Electricals completed inspection of toilets on 10th February. No major issues identified.

65.21 All Saints Charlton Lychgate

Following a discussion on the Clerk's report, Cllr Watts proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that recommendations be made to the Council that the Clerk should arrange for its immediate repair to ensure the lychgate was watertight and also arrange for a survey to be carried out so that the Council could assess the extent of the repair and maintenance required in the longer term.

66.21 Downton Beacon

Following a discussion on the Clerk's report and information recently provided that the member of the public who said he was unable to light it for the Platinum Jubilee but was now able to do so, Cllr Watts proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Council that it takes no further action.

67.21 Play Inspection Reports

Following a discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Jones seconded and it was RESOLVED to note the reports from the Play Inspection Company and work already completed and to make recommendations to the Parish Council to accept the quotes for the following identified works:

- i. A quote from Leigh Bush of £450 to provide and install a pedestrian gate to the Moot Lane entrance to the Moot Lane Recreation Ground in oak with associated ironmongery.
- ii. A quote from Chris Barter, welder, of £95 to repair the slide in the Memorial Gardens.

A quote for the reinstatement of a fence on the southern boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground with a resident's garden was not available at the time of the meeting.

68.21 Playground Inspections

Following consideration of the Administration Officer's report on a change to the current playground inspection regime as identified at the recent playground inspection training event, Cllr Watts proposed, Cllr Randall seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council for The Play Inspection Company be asked to inspect the Council's four sites once a year in August/September (annual inspection) and carries out three other operational inspections during the year at an annual cost of £1,088.

69.21 Re-Wilding Request

Following a discussion on the Clerk's report following a resident's request for the Council to consider the re-wilding or creation of wild flower meadows in areas of the parish and on land owned by the Parish Council, Cllr Watts proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council should await the new policy from Wiltshire Council and suggest to other organisations across Downton, such as The Moot Preservation Trust, that they may like to consider re-wilding.

70.21 Handyperson quotes for Identified Work

Cllr Watts proposed, Cllr Jones seconded and it was RESOLVED that recommendations be made to the Parish Council to accept the quotes for the following identified works:

- i. £600 for the refurbishment of the benches in the Cemetery located around the turning circle.

A quote of £900 for the painting of the telephone box in Charlton All Saints prior to the installation of the defibrillator was rejected and the Clerk was asked to source a cheaper quote. A quote for the grass seeding of an area near the entrance to the Cemetery following work to the trees was not available.

71.21 Next meeting

The Committee RESOLVED that the next meeting be held at the Memorial Centre on Monday 27th June 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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