

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 18th May 2011 at 10.00am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Barry Adby
Tony Williamson
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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Barry Adby presided over the meeting until the Election of Chairman.

47/11 Apologies for Absence
Tim Horton.

48/11 Election of Chairman
Tony Williamson proposed Barry Adby and this was seconded by Ted Backhouse.
There were no other nominations.
Resolved: That Barry Adby unanimously be elected as Chairman of the Operations Committee

49/11 Election of Vice-Chairman
Roger Beattie proposed Ted Backhouse and this was seconded by Tony Williamson.
It was noted that Tim Horton had stated that he would be willing to take this position.
Resolved: That Ted Backhouse was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

50/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th April 2011 were accepted by Council on the 10/5/2011
It was noted that on page 13 'Recreation Ground Trees' should read 'Sports Field Trees' with this correction it was:
Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

51/11 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

52/11 Matters arising
There were none other than agenda items.

53/11 Outstanding Issues

Salt Bin (top of Howe Road)– Awaiting response from OCC re Filling of Salt Boxes

Wooden Salt Boxes (Watlington) –BT to repair in May

Community Office –Decorating – Barry Adby will be speaking to the Community Payback Team regarding this.

Public Convenience – BT to paint doors in May/June

Pavilion Noticeboard – To ask the Sports Field and Pavilion Committee to put on the agenda for their next meeting.

Wall by Bench junction of Gorwell/Brook Street –This wall needs tidying up of the overgrown vegetation. BA to speak to the resident concerned in the first instance.

54/11 Property

Car Park – Discussion on Survey

This was discussed and it was agreed to start this later in June. It was agreed it would be useful to note the number of people moving in and out of the car park and also to ask as many people as possible 2/3 questions. It was agreed that this needs to be as quick and simple as possible. The type of questions to be asked should be such as 'Why are you here today?' with a number of answers which could be ticked. It was thought asking them the length of time they were parking for, would also be useful. Another question it was thought may be useful was 'Would you be discouraged for parking here if there was a charge?'. It was thought that a number of different days and times of the year would be useful to do this survey, this would show us if there is a difference depending on whether it is holiday time or not. It was agreed that the Clerk draft up some questions and email to members for their comments.

Planting of Tubs and War Memorial – A detailed costing has been received from WIB. They suggest the following planting:

Memorial Cross:

Crystal Palace Lobelia, Petunia Montage, Salvia ,Lobelia Trail Away , Osteospermum Regal Classic,Rose Little White Pet .

Tubs:

Agapanthus Blues and Whites. Artemesia Powys Castle ,Campanula Sarastro, Cerastium tomentosum, Euonomous Emerald Gaity, Lavender Munstead, Lychnis Coronoria alba, Nepeta Walkers low, Scutellaria incana

Underplanting trees:

Penstemon Sour Grapes, Geranium Magnificum Rosemoor, Geranium Brookside

This planting will cost approximately £389.31

The above planting scheme was discussed and it was agreed that WIB go ahead with their scheme, the planting of the tubs being hardy perennials. The War Memorial planting is for the summer only. It was noted that colour scheme in the winter would be grey/green in colour. It was agreed that we record comments during the seasons. It was noted that a response to our question on watering and maintenance eg weeding of these had still not been received and the Clerk to re-ask this question. It was agreed that we ask for a list of their committee members. It was noted that this will be reviewed after the summer season.

The Clerk reported that the tubs around the Community Office have not been included in their planting scheme and these will therefore need to be planted. The Clerk will organise this. The hanging baskets at the Town Hall will also be a parish council responsibility.

55/11 Open Spaces

Sports Field Trees – Robert Barber had given a report on these trees (Full report held on file dated 16/5/2011) In conclusion he noted that no urgent concern was observed on any of the trees. However a number of them overhang the road or have small branches growing towards the footway and some work to these may be prudent.

The Lease with Beechwood Estates has been looked at in relation to this issue. It was noted that we have looked at reasonable precautions regarding these trees and that if there was some action needed nothing would be able to be done to the trees until the Autumn.

Rabbit Problem – It was noted that there is a serious rabbit problem in this area especially within the cricket area. It was agreed that RB speak to the Estates Manager to let him know our concerns and to see if they have any views on this problem

Zip Wire – To note that this is being fixed by Playdale as it had jammed.
[Nb since the meeting this has been fixed. It had jammed by bark having been put in the mechanism]

Resolved: That we write to Playdale stating our disappointment re the after sales service on this item and also to ask if the new motherboard could be put under warranty for 3 years.

56/11 General Issues

Sign at Christmas Common– The Xmas Common Resident Association has asked that this sign remain in this location. The sign is an original Christmas Common OCC sign.

Resolved: That this sign remains in situ.

Road markings – School Entrance – awaiting response from OCC. The Clerk to chase this up with OCC

Pavilion Opening – Easter Trial

BA reported that we have all the receipts and payments from Ella Smart and a profit of around £10 per day of opening was made. This makes a total profit of £110. At the Pavilion Informal meeting on Monday 16/5/11 the Sports Club have no views about this facility being open on a Monday –Friday although they would like to open it themselves at weekends when they have matches. They have said that they will make sure the toilets are available to the public whenever they have weekend matches.

It was noted that, as at Easter there are some days that the Pavilion could not be open such as when it is hired by organisations during the week. This could be a problem to anyone running this facility – there would be some days they could not operate. It was noted that we have received many positive comments on the Easter opening and there is a real advantage to having some sort of service which also enables the toilets to be open to users at peak times.

It was noted that we should re-look at the possibility of having toilets which could be accessed when the pavilion is not open, which would only be possible if grant funding was available. It would be useful to obtain drawings of how this could be done. It was noted that if this happened there would be a cost to the Parish Council of maintaining them.

In conclusion this experiment has shown that there is a recognised value of having a service which also allows the availability of the toilets – which are then checked and cleaned on a regular schedule

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the £110 profit made over the two week trial over the Easter Period of the opening Pavilion be given to Ella Smart for the

regular cleaning/maintenance of the toilets and main hall.

Twinning Weekend 2nd -5th June – Timetable was attached to Full Council papers. Discussion of issues relating to this eg Plaque, Grass Cutting, Gift etc. The Twinning Committee have suggested that they would purchase a gargoyle on the Parish Council's behalf to present to the Mansle Mayor which they will fund.

Gift to Mansle

Resolved: That the Twinning Committee purchase this and Ian Hill will present it at the Parish Council reception for the visitors on the 2nd June 2011.

Grass and Hedge Cutting of Mansle Gardens – Our contractors, Berinsfield Community Business will ensure that both of these are cut prior to the visit.

Plaque – A number of options have been looked into including a brick plinth, however this was deemed not possible at the present.

Resolved: That Colin King mount the slate plaque into a trunk of oak.

57/11 Correspondence

1. Email from Terry Jackson re planting of tubs and war memorial – **discussed above.**
2. Mr Lavender – RE No 10 Davenport Place – dangerous wall – **Agreed that we send a letter to No 10 regarding this.**
3. Southern Electric – renewal term was stated at 24 months and should have been 12 months contract - **Noted**
4. Alan Craddock – Plaque at Mansle garden asking that this be replaced **discussed above.**
5. N Buckland – Obstacles on High Street pavement – **This letter was noted and it was agreed that we speak to Mr Buckland regarding this.**

58/11 Future Issues for Discussion

British Legion Fete - July
Emergency Plan – June

59/11 Any Other Business

Co-option onto the Operations Committee

Recommendation to Council: That we co-opt Linda Nicholson onto this committee

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINSSES THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.30AM