



**MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE YOUTH CLUB CENTRE, FOSSEWAY, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 1DW AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: L Rixon (Chairman), H Cheston (Vice chairman), M Deacon, V Davies, S Clarke, B Eddolls (Chairman of council) & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the Council

**Also in attendance:** Advisor Mr N Surman

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the agenda as the meeting progressed.

**3. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON:-**

**a) 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Deacon that the chairman should sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **RECORD OF VOTING** – 3 in favour, 2 abstentions. **Motion carried.**

**b) 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Deacon that the chairman should sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **RECORD OF VOTING** – 3 in favour, 2 abstentions. **Motion carried.**

**4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None as no members of public present.

**6. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

Damaged wall, by tractor tyre on QEII field – clerk will present her report at the next meeting.

New signage for vehicular access gate to Spring Gardens Allotments site will be on a subsequent agenda when the text and design is ready for approval.

Repairs to play equipment at King George's Field play area have been completed.

Clerk to ask electricians when they come to the town to install/set up the Christmas lights to ask if they would be prepared to take down the flagpole on exterior of sweet shop in the square which the tenant would like removed.

**7. TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON RECENT BONFIRE EVENT AND TO CONFIRM THAT SUBJECT TO BUDGET APPROVAL THE COMMITTEE ARE HAPPY TO ORGANISE THIS EVENT NEXT YEAR ON FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

Clerk said that the event had cost £1,304 this year in comparison to just under £500 last year but said that costs were up due to cancellation insurance being taken out for the first time and new banners. The bar and donations were similar to last year but it was felt the numbers may have been down due to the weather conditions. Circa 1250 people were counted through the gates. It was also half term.

Clerk gave her comments on any issues she felt arose and members added to these and a copy will be lodged on the file. Clerk also said that she will be applying for a grant for this event via Tesco Carrier Bags fund and if successful then it is hoped that the fireworks display could be set to music. **RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Cheston, seconded Cllr Deacon that the council should organise a similar event next year. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**8. TO DISCUSS PETITION RECEIVED FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO WISH THE FUN FAIR TO BE LOCATED ELSEWHERE OTHER THAN THE SQUARE IN JUNE 2020**

A petition had been received through the post which had been signed by some businesses in the town asking the council to find an alternative location for the fun fair. The council resolved to hold the fair in the square until June 2020. The council had already discussed relocating to either QEII field (& cricket ground) or King George's playing field but the operator said because it was not hard standing this would not be suitable for the heavy rides. Clerk requested to write to all the businesses who had signed the petition confirming the situation.

**9. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGET FOR NEW FINANCIAL YEAR EFFECTIVE 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020**

Clerk had circulated the draft budget which had been agreed in principle at the last meeting but a few additions had been made. A few further adjustments were made and it was then **RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Deacon, seconded Cllr Clarke that draft budget is approved. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**10. TO REVIEW THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT AND TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL WORDING TO BE INCLUDED IN RELATION TO HAVING BEE HIVES ON THE SITE**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Eddolls, seconded Cllr Cheston revised document be approved. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**11. TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT FOR KEEPING BEES ON ALLOTMENTS**

Meeting ran through the draft document and a few amendments/additions were made. **RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Deacon, seconded Cllr Eddolls that the policy document then be adopted. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**12. TO REVIEW VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FOOTFALL STATISTICS AND CLERK TO REPORT ON HER MEETING WITH THE MANAGER AT STOW LIBRARY/VIC**

Figures were presented and the footfall is down in comparison to the same period last year. This is universal not only in the District but countrywide. Clerk had met with the manager and gave a brief overview of the discussions. She had also confirmed that the team would talk to all the businesses in the town to encourage them to dress their windows up in celebration of VE 75 year's celebrations. The library/VIC had also won a couple of further awards lately and clerk hoped to put an article in the next Stow Matters newsletter.

**13. TO CONFIRM FINAL WORKING PARTY MEETING FOR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT ON FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT 5.00 PM AND RECEIVE UPDATE REPORT FROM CLERK**

Noted and plans are well advanced for this event.

**14. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE INCLUDING DONATIONS FROM BUSINESSES**

The following businesses have kindly given a donation to the Christmas lights fund:- Red Rag Gallery, Kendall & Davies, Prince of India, Keith Hockin Antiques, Brio Retirement, Stow News & Peter Martin Gallery. **Post Meeting Note:** *A donation has also been received from Stow Lodge Hotel.*

Electricians will be on site w/c 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and the lights will be switched on by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Christmas tree will be erected on the Stocks Green by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019 latest. New tree lights had been installed on two trees on Stocks Green in addition to the beech tree which already has lights on it. All the bulbs in the town should be replaced with LED ones this time around.

**15. TO REVIEW AND CLERK TO REPORT ON CAR PARKING ON KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELD FOR OCTOBER GYPSY FAIR**

A profit of £79.89 had been made. Takings were down and this was attributed to the fact that a lot of visitors to the fair parked on the highway as GCC ran out of cones. GCC had apologised for this oversight and had confirmed that this will not occur again. There were issues with the car park and these will be addressed for the May 2020 fair in relation to entering the car park via King George's Field and leaving via Oddington Road. This year the organisers were using the entrance on King George's Field for cars arriving and leaving which was chaotic.

**16. TO REPORT ON TRIMMING OF LIME TREES IN SHEEP STREET**

All the trees will be trimmed within the next couple of weeks.

**17. TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ON OFFER AND LONG TERM THOUGHTS ON BOTH QEII AND KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS**

Cllr Rixon gave a report on her feelings of what should occur in the future. It was ultimately agreed that this would be put on ice for the time being pending the results of the NDP community survey.

**18. TO DISCUSS WHETHER COMMITTEE FEEL IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SUPPORT THE COTSWOLD CONSERVATION BOARD'S "GLORIOUS COTSWOLD GRASSLANDS" BY CONSIDERING ALLOCATING AREAS WITHIN THE REMIT OF THIS COMMITTEE TO WILD FLOWERS**

Clerk was asked to contact the Conservation Board and it was suggested that a strip of land on QEII field (& cricket ground) adjacent to the wood could perhaps be set aside for such a scheme.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at 7.00 pm.**

**20. MEETING CLOSED – At 8.59 pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman      Dated: \_\_\_\_\_