



## MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors: L Rixon (Chairman), S Clarke, J Davies & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the council

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

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr V Davies & Cllr M Deacon.

### 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 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

The meeting was inquorate to sign the minutes so will be taken forward to the next meeting.

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman requested that a large version of one of the dog fouling posters be put up in Well Lane.

### 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None as no members of public present.

### 6. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Rixon, seconded Cllr Clarke that Cllr J Davies is elected. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

### 7. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

The planting of wildflowers on QEII and King George's Playing Fields drew to a halt due to lockdown restrictions. Chairman will contact the representative from the Conservation Board to arrange another site meeting with the aim of hopefully getting this project under way next year. GCC Highways have issued a cultivation licence in relation to the flower border adjacent to April Cottage, Fosseyway, which is currently maintained by Stow Civic Society.

Clerk had emailed Swell PTFA to say that the Bonfire Event is cancelled for this year as they had expressed an interest in having a baked potato stall to raise money for the school.

VE celebration had been cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic.

Clerk has organised a skip to remove rubbish from the container, located on the cemetery overflow car park and to dispose of some items from the council office too. Cllr J Davies had kindly offered to help along with a representative from Cotswold Festival Committee who also use the container to store items and have items to dispose of too.

The new litter bin had been installed adjacent to Brio Retirement Village and cemetery in Station Road.

In relation to the request by a tenant of Spring Gardens Allotments to widen access from The Park into the allotments it had not been taken forward due to no meeting during lockdown. Cllr J Davies said that she had spoken to the individual who would be happy for the council just to fill in the potholes at this entrance and that would suffice his needs in the short term. Proposed that Chairman, Cllr J Davies and clerk meet on site to assess what is needed and take action.

Formalising of the car park area on the allotments is on ice and clerk will pop this on the wish list for next financial year or it is one of the three projects that Brio Retirement may sponsor.

Clerk had asked the contractor to weed the Fountain rose garden.

**8. TO DISCUSS LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM OWNER OF NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY TO KING GEORGE'S FIELD IN RELATION TO ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BY USERS OF THE MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)**

Clerk requested to contact the resident to say that if any ASB occurs to request that they call 101. Further investigations into who is running a keep fit class on the playing field is ongoing.

**9. TO DISCUSS COMPLAINT AND SUGGESTION BY RESIDENT THAT KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELD SHOULD ONLY BE MOWED AROUND THE PERIMETER AND THE REST JUST LEFT TO GROW UP TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE**

Unanimously agreed that as they are both "playing fields" that only the perimeter could be left to grow up.

**10. SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Rixon & J Davies declared an interest as they are both have allotment plots.

**(i) To discuss large water bill at allotments and the proposal that in the future all costs incurred will be borne by this committee rather than the Burial Board and any other action required**

Clerk explained that in the redrafted 2020/21 budget all the water costs will be placed under this committee's budget rather than the Burial Board who historically have paid it. All the income comes to this committee's budget so it was felt that as the increase is due to larger water bills due to dry season that this was the right thing to do which received unanimous support. The council's last bill was for £123.10 which was more than the annual cost previously. Clerk had spoken to Chairman of Spring Gardens Allotments Association and he said that a few tenants had been using hosepipes which are banned and had been spoken to.

**(ii) To discuss and recommend to council if the allotment plot rent should be increased effective January 2021 (currently £24 per plot irrespective of size)**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Rixon, seconded Cllr Clarke that the recommendation to council is to increase the rent from £24 to £25 per plot irrespective of size. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**(iii) To review Allotment Tenancy Agreement and if appropriate make recommendation to council for approval**

A long discussion ensued. **RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Rixon, seconded Cllr J Davies that the only addition would be to refer to the council's Beekeeping Policy document under item 5 and then document is approved. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**11. QEII PLAYING FIELD**

**i) To agree to relocate the wooden sign currently adjacent to side of cricket pavilion at the Lower Swell Road entrance to QEII playing field closer to the entrance**

Unanimously agreed that the sign should be relocated.

**ii) To consider whether committee feel that extra signage is necessary to reiterate no BBQ's or fires**

No further action.

**iii) REPAIR TO STONE WALL CAUSED BY TRACTOR TYRE**

Contractor hopes to get the repair completed by the end of this month.

**12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE TOWN**

**i) To discuss estimates for replacing tree lights that are not working on large tree on Stocks Green including installation costs**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Rixon, seconded Cllr J Davies that expenditure approved for a total amount of £970 + VAT to purchase 10 strings of lights, installation and fixings.

**RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

ii) **Replacement brackets for star decorations on St Edward’s Hall**

Clerk having problems locating suitable brackets and is now in the hands of the electrician who thinks he may be able to source. Clerk to keep pursuing.

**13. NOTICEBOARD AT ENTRANCE TO SHOPPERS CAR PARK, FOSSEWAY AND ACTION REQUIRED**

Cllr Clarke kindly offered to take a look to see if it could be sufficiently repaired so the laminated poster could be put back up. Clerk to obtain costs for supplying and installing a new noticeboard.

**14. PLAY AREAS AT KING GEORGE’S FIELD & SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS**

i) **To review annual RoSPA reports (April 2020) and play area inspections carried out before officially reopening the play areas post lockdown and any actions required and to discuss estimates for any repairs/work to be carried out**

No action required at the Spring Gardens play area.

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Rixon, seconded Cllr Clarke that expenditure approved to replace missing bolt on carousel and 4 cradle swing seats and 2 flat seats at a cost of £634.00 + VAT at King George’s Field play area. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**15. TO ARRANGE A COMMUNITY LITTER PICK WORKING IN GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN TWO AND IN LINE WITH CURRENT SOCIAL DISTANCING LEGISLATION**

A date of week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 was set. Clerk requested to contact all members of council to ask them to take on an area and to recruit another volunteer to help. This is not just contained to land in ownership of the council but all public areas in the town.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 6.30 pm via Zoom.

**17. MEETING CLOSED** – At 8.04 pm.

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

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_