



MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors: L Rixon (Chairman), J Davies (Deputy chairman), V Davies, A Clayton & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Clarke & Advisor Mr N Surman.

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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The skip planned to remove unwanted items from the container had been cancelled as the forecast was for rain all day.

The uneven path close to The Parks entrance to the allotments has kindly been rectified by Mr Small.

The Fountain rose bed had been weeded.

The council approved the committee's recommended increase in allotment rent to £25 per annum.

Mr Small will relocate the sign by the cricket pavilion closer to the Lower Swell Road entrance.

The damaged stone wall at bottom of QEII playing field had been repaired.

Discussion still ongoing with Cllr Clarke in relation to damaged notice board at pedestrian entrance from Fosseyway to Tesco site. Clerk has included the cost of a replacement in the draft budget.

Hanging baskets had been removed from the square and put into storage. The three tower planters will be replanted in the next couple of weeks.

Clerk to contact a local farmer to ask if he would be prepared to help the council relocate the salt bags from Cemetery Meadow to King George's playing field.

7. TO DISCUSS DRAFT BUDGET FOR COMMITTEE FOR NEW FINANCIAL YEAR COMMENCING 1ST APRIL 2021

The meeting ran through the draft budget the clerk had prepared. Discussions ensued and the members unanimously agreed final draft which will be submitted to the Finance & General Purpose Committee at their next meeting.

8. SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

Clerk said that currently there are four plots vacant. There are however several people on the waiting list who specifically want a particular plot if it becomes vacant.

9. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE COSTS FOR PLANTING 6 METRE WIDE STRIPS OF WILDFLOWERS ON QEII AND KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS ASSUMING COUNCIL HAS GIVEN GO AHEAD AT THE OCTOBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

Council had approved. The costs for scarification work, supply eight A3 interpretation boards (four for each site) and supply of seed is circa £200 excluding any fencing provision. Clerk to speak to Cotswold Conservation Board in relation to what type of fencing should be erected to protect the area in the short term and also to ascertain if the grant scheme is still open and if appropriate to apply for a grant.

10. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE TOWN

- i) **To discuss possible replacement of all tree lights on large tree on Stocks Green and not just the faulty strings and reasoning behind this which ultimately could save money**

RESOLVED – Proposed Cllr Clayton, seconded Cllr J Davies approved so total cost for replacing the lights and installation £1840 + VAT. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

Clerk pointed out that this was for 20 strings of lights saying this will be more than enough and any unused ones will be returned to the supplier and a credit issued.

- ii) **Update on Christmas Tree**

The cost of the Christmas tree is the same as last year which includes supply, delivery, installation, removal and disposal at £355 + VAT.

- iii) **To discuss estimate for erecting/dismantling over road decorations, checking all strings of lights on buildings are working correctly and replacing any bulbs that fail, including the supply and installation of new brackets for star decorations on St Edward's Hall & hire of cherry picker on two separate occasions and placing lights on Christmas Tree and connecting supply and the same for all tree lights on Stocks Green.**

Estimate is still awaited but the clerk said she was confident that the budget will cover the costs and reminded that there is an earmarked reserve for Christmas lights if needed. She will continue to chase. Neither the clerk nor the electrician had been able to source replacement brackets for the stars on St Edward's Hall. Electrician will be on site week commencing 23rd November 2020. Cherry picker will be booked for that week and the tree surgeon will also be on site to erect the new tree lights on the Stocks Green. There could be an issue in gaining access to some of the properties who supply the electricity for the lights due to second lockdown. The clerk is to try to make contact with the relevant property owners to enable access if required.

11. TO DISCUSS SUGGESTION OF PLANTING MORE TREES ON QEII AND KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS INCLUDING HOW THIS WILL BE FUNDED AND THE LONGER TERM COST IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO MAINTENANCE AND TO BEAR IN MIND POSSIBLE LONGER TERM PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FACILITIES ON BOTH OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

This was discussed at length and the general consensus is that any new trees should be looked at along with other areas owned/maintained by the council and possibly beyond that in line with draft Neighbourhood Plan policy documents. Funding has to be considered but clerk felt that in view of Government policy in relation to climate change strategy that grants will be available and mentioned the GCC one which the council should hear about by the end of the year. However, all agreed that careful consideration of the type and species planted anywhere in the town need thought as to keep the maintenance costs to a minimum. In the meantime, the clerk is to investigate costs for planting a hedge to secure the boundary with agricultural land adjacent to King George's Field which is currently open.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 21st January 2021 at 6.30 pm via Zoom.

13. MEETING CLOSED – At 7.55 pm.

Signed: _____ Chairman Dated: _____

DRAFT