



MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors: J Davies (Acting chairman), V Davies, J Scarsbrook, S Clarke & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the council

Also in attendance: Mr N Surman, Advisor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Clayton.

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. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN TO PRESIDE UNTIL MAY 2021

RESOLVED – That Cllr Clayton is elected. **Motion carried.**

4. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020 & 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 17th September 2020 & 5th November 2020 should be signed as a true and accurate record. **Motion carried.**

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None as no members of public present.

7. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

A new noticeboard will be purchased and installed at the pedestrian entrance to Tesco from the Fosseyway in new financial year. Clerk suggested and all agreed that as the current one was an eyesore it should be removed.

Tower planters had been replanted.

Salt grit bags had been relocated to King George's Field with thanks to Mr Teague and a friend for transporting to site. Thanks also to Cllr Scarsbrook and her husband for their help in making this happen too.

Clerk said that she was just preparing a grant application to Cotswolds National Landscape (former Cotswold Conservation Board) for help towards the costs of the wildflower planting on QEII and King George's Playing Fields.

Clerk ended her report by saying that the two new co opted members would sit on this committee to fill the two vacant seats.

8. SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

Clerk said that the rents were coming in slowly but surely and existing tenants have until 31st January 2021 to pay. An email had been received from the Chairman of the Spring Gardens Allotments Association which had been circulated to all members in relation to dog fouling on the site by members of the public cutting through the site. Clerk requested to produce a temporary sign asking all non tenants to keep to the perimeter hedge and not cut through the allotments and to remind them of the law in relation to dog fouling.

9. TO DISCUSS SUGGESTION OF PLANTING MORE TREES ON QEII & KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS INCLUDING HOW THIS WILL BE FUNDED (POSSIBLY VIA GCC ASH DIEBACK GRANT) 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 THE PLAYING FIELDS

Clerk had spoken to GCC Ash Dieback Officer who confirmed that this grant will remain open for five years. Agreed this item be deferred to next meeting.

10. REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TO DISCUSS NEW OVER ROAD CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR 2021 SEASON

Clerk said that there had been a lot of positive feedback once again in relation to the Christmas lights in the town especially the tree lights on Stocks Green. She explained that the lease had ended on the current over road signs and that the committee need to choose an alternative design and sign up to a new lease for the next three years. Clerk had sent through a suggested design to all members and it was agreed that the clerk would obtain costs but for two rather than three as the one at the entrance to the square from the High Street will not be replaced. Payment had been made to all the property owners who wish to be recompensed for supplying the power for the lights in the town with grateful thanks to those property owners who give the power free of charge. New brackets for the stars on St Edward's Hall will need to be sourced and purchased ahead of this season. Clerk presented costs of this year's lights which amounted to just under £6,000 and is £2,146 over budget (due to installation and purchase of 20 new strings of lights on large tree on Stocks Green) and this will be taken from the earmarked reserve for Christmas lights.

11. CLERK TO REPORT ON VARIOUS TREE WORKS PLANNED BEFORE THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR FOR QEII & KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS, WRAGGS ROW, ALLOTMENTS, THE SHRUBBERY & THE FOUNTAIN IN LINE WITH COUNCIL'S TREE SURVEY

A considerable number of trees will have work carried out on them in line with proposals outlined in the council's Tree Survey. Work should be carried out by the end of this financial year. Tree surgeon has put in a blanket request application for all tree works in the Conservation Area to CDC Tree Officer and a decision is awaited.

12. UPDATE ON REPAIRS TO PLAY PARKS AND PRESSURE WASHING SPRING GARDENS PLAY AREA

Repairs to play equipment have been completed and the pressure washing of Spring Gardens Play Area too. Due to social distancing measures some of the swings have been removed and the new seats will be fitted when the contractor reinstalls them when safe to do so. Spring Gardens Play Area had been reopened.

13. CLERK TO REPORT ON FURTHER DAMAGE TO QEII STONE WALL CAUSED BY UBICO REFUSE LORRY IN TALBOT SQUARE

Yet another incident that has damaged the wall adjacent to Talbot Square private road. Thanks to nearby property owner who also experienced damage to his property once again and his tenacity in getting the repairs underway from this incident and a previous one some time ago. Work has started and the situation will be monitored. Steps have been taken by UBICO so that this will hopefully not occur again in the future.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 11th March 2021 at 6.30 pm via Zoom.

15. MEETING CLOSED – At 7.30 pm.

Signed: _____ Chairman Dated: _____