



MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Councillors: A Clayton (Chairman), J Davies (Vice chairman), V Davies, S Clarke & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the council

Also in attendance: Mr N Surman, Advisor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs J Scarsbrook, E Bell & M Worker.

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 11TH MARCH 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record. **Motion carried.** Chairman will sign the minutes after the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of public present.

6. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2021

Clerk had emailed Ubico's supervisor for the town to ask if he could organise for the relocation of two of the dog poo bins on QEII playing field to two new locations. He had responded and asked for more information and a response is awaited.

Cllr Scarsbrook and the clerk had met at Mangersbury Park in relation to relocating one of the many salt bins in this area to the hammer head. A suitable location had been agreed. Cllr Scarsbrook's husband had also agreed to move the bin when time permits. Committee asked Cllr Scarsbrook to pass on thanks to her husband on behalf of the committee.

Wildflower planting on both playing fields should take place in the next couple of weeks. The fencing to protect the two areas to be planted had been ordered and delivered.

Clerk said that the Chairman of Spring Gardens Allotments Association had asked for permission to fell a conifer tree on the site adjacent to a house in Spring Gardens. Unanimously agreed that permission is granted.

7. TO REVIEW AND AMEND COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

RESOLVED that an additional point under "RESPONSIBILITIES" be added in relation to this committee taking over the running and maintenance of Stow Cricket Pavilion until such times as a community group could take over. Clerk requested to draft the words which will be presented to council at its April 2021 meeting.

8. SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

i) Update on vacant plots

Seven on the waiting list of which two are waiting for specific plots to come up.

- ### **ii) To discuss and approve that the clerk should apply to GCC for an Ash Dieback Grant for the supply of mixed whips to form a hedge on the boundary with The Parks estate**
- Unanimously agreed that the clerk should go ahead. These would be supplied in the Autumn and nearer the time the clerk will put out a plea for members of the community to get involved with the planting. Mr Surman, as the council's Tree Advisor, agreed to meet with the clerk on site to work out how many whips will need to be ordered. It is hoped to get as many as possible from the community involved in the planting which is a contribution to offsetting their carbon footprint. It is also hoped to get Stow Primary School involved too if at all possible.

9. TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON STOW CRICKET PAVILION WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2021

Chairman gave an overview of the meeting of which notes will be distributed to all members of council when available. He said the cricket pavilion was a valuable asset to the town. He hoped that more community volunteers would come forward to join the Working Party to spread the load. Next meeting date is to be arranged.

10. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE THAT THE CLERK SHOULD APPLY TO GCC FOR AN ASH DIEBACK GRANT FOR THE SUPPLY OF MIXED WHIPS TO FORM A HEDGE ON BOUNDARY WITH AGRICULTURAL LAND ADJACENT TO KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELD, ODDINGTON ROAD

Same action and approval as 8 (ii) above.

11. TO DISCUSS EMAIL FROM CDC'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEAD ON "WELCOME BACK FUND" IN RELATION TO REOPENING OF TOWN CENTRES AND ANY ACTION REQUIRED

Further clarification on the criteria for the above fund had been received. Clerk said that anything that is asked for must be temporary and in a position to be removed if appropriate. Also CDC said that £30,000 of the £81,000 grant from Government would be set aside towards a virtual High Street to help digitally enable the nine town centres to provide greater resilience.

The general discussion felt that perhaps some more litter bins and possibly benches could be placed on The Shrubbery, Old Stocks Green and perhaps a larger litter bin at front of St Edward's Hall. Extra floral displays were also discussed but dismissed due to ongoing maintenance issues like watering etc. It was agreed that all members would take a look at the various locations and come back to the clerk with their thoughts as to whether new street furniture is needed. Another suggestion was that perhaps rather than putting another bin on the green(s) that perhaps a larger replacement could be considered but must be to the design specification approved by this committee some time back for all new litter bins.

12. TO DISCUSS FURTHER TREE WORKS NECESSARY DUE TO ASH DIEBACK ON SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS, QEII & KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS

Clerk had received an email from Stockwell Davies Limited who having carried out some tree works in both of the above locations advising that they could see there were a number of ash trees that need felling due to ash dieback. They said when the Tree Survey had been done the trees were not symptomatic at that stage. The estimated cost to deal with the numerous trees is circa £6,000 + VAT. They said that the ones at the allotments are very large and work on them is now very much hindered by the Brio development which is very close by. Clerk is having a site meeting and will report back at the next meeting.

13. TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE IF BONFIRE EVENT 2021 SHOULD GO AHEAD

RESOLVED that the event should go ahead subject to any issues at that time relating to the Covid 19 pandemic which mean that such an event cannot safely take place. **Motion carried.**

14. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE QUOTATION FOR DRY STONE WALL REPAIRS ON QEII AND KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS

Wayne Lockey had supplied an estimate to repair any damaged dry stone walls on both sites including the supply of all materials for an amount of £9,675. Currently there is £3,000 in the budget plus a further £3,000 earmarked for such works. This will not cover the cost so it was agreed that Cllrs Clayton, J Davies & V Davies would visit the two sites and identify the most urgent work that needs doing and will report back to the clerk who can then get a revised estimate.

15. TO DISCUSS ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND ANY ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE WELLS (DEFERRED FROM LAST MEETING)

Chairman asked the clerk what is the current situation in relation to the Community Payback Team coming to clear the road ditches/drains on either side of Well Lane. She said they are still restricted and could only send one supervisor and one offender which is not really enough to tackle this job but hoped with easing of lockdown they may be able to return in larger numbers.

Mr Surman then talked about The Wells and said he thought professional advice should be sought in relation to the water that is increasingly ending up on the highway. It was thought that this could possibly be related to a spring in the adjacent field but no one really knew. GCC Highways had been out to take a look and eased the situation temporarily and Mr Surman had also done some clearing too. Clerk will speak to GCC Highways once again to see if they could offer any further suggestions though because it appears to be on private land it is likely they will not be able to carry out any works which is the same for town council as would be ultra vires.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 17th June 2021 at 7.00 pm at Stow Youth Centre

17. MEETING CLOSED – At 7.30 pm.

Signed: _____ Chairman Dated: _____