



MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH JUNE 2021, AT STOW YOUTH CENTRE, FOSSEWAY, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 1DW AT 7.00 PM

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

Also in attendance: Mr N Surman, Advisor

- 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL MAY 2022**
RESOLVED Cllr Clayton is elected. **Motion carried.**
- 2. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL MAY 2022**
RESOLVED Cllr J Davies is elected. **Motion carried.**
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllrs J Scarsbrook & V Davies.
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the agenda as the meeting progressed.
- 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
No members of public present.
- 6. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2021**
RESOLVED that the minutes should be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
Motion carried.
- 7. TO DISCUSS AND UPDATE MAINTENANCE OF THE WELLS**
Chairman brought forward this item on the Agenda.
Mr Surman said that Stow Civic Society would be willing to help clear the area and could organise for the actual well to be drained and cleaned out with the help of resident Mr Colin Smalley if available. It was suggested that this should take place in the Autumn. Clerk to contact Mr Smalley to see if he would be able to help and supply a pump as in previous years.
A discussion ensued in relation to the ongoing problems of the water draining onto the road which is a hazard when it freezes and at other times it becomes a muddy mess. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to identify a suitable surveyor to take a look and to give the Council an estimate to carry out a survey. Clerk said that GCC Highways could offer no help and as mentioned previously the clearing of the actual area could possibly be done by the Community Payback Team and is trying to contact the Manager to find out what if anything is possible at the moment in line with Covid 19 regulations. A suggestion was that perhaps sandbags could be placed in an appropriate position to divert the water to where it should go and not onto the road as a short term measure.
- 8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
None.
- 9. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2021**
Two dog poo bins on QEII playing field have been relocated by Ubico as agreed at the last meeting.

Salt bin has yet to be relocated in Maugersbury Park and Clerk will get an update from Cllr Scarsbrook.

Wildflower seeds have been broadcast and the fencing and signs have been installed. It may be that they have to reseed as with all the dry weather since being sown germination may not occur. If the latter is the case Cotswolds National Landscape said they would do this free of charge. Clerk had applied for the grant to be paid and had sent all the relevant paperwork to allow this to happen. The Committee Terms of Reference amendment had been approved by Council and no further changes had been made at its May Council Meeting.

Lime trees in Park Street and Sheep Street are currently being pollarded. Some positive and some negative comments but as the Council pollarded the trees some years ago they must continue to do this every three or four years to keep the trees healthy. In between they would be just trimmed from the trunk up to keep them tidy.

At the request of the Chairman of the Spring Gardens Allotments Association an email or a letter had been sent to all the tenants saying that bonfires are banned and to also request that any strimming or noisy activity on site can only take place between the hours of 9.00 am to 8.00 pm. CDC Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation with a deadline of 26th July 2021 is underway. Clerk had placed copies of the relevant pages of the documents in front of members. It was agreed that everyone would take a look and feedback any comments by **Monday 19th July 2021** latest. The Clerk would then write a draft response and will circulate to all members for comment/approval.

10. SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

i) Update on vacant plots

Three vacant plots all of which have been offered to people on the waiting list to view.

ii) To discuss the felling of conifer tree approved by the committee at the last meeting and funding

Clerk said that she had misunderstood the request from Chairman of Spring Gardens Allotments Association as she thought they would take the tree down themselves. This is not the case and they wondered if they could apply for a Council grant to cover the cost by appointing a tree surgeon but it unanimously agreed that this was not an appropriate route for funding. The Clerk said that she had looked at the Tree Survey and the tree does not appear on it which could mean it is not on the allotment site but that of a neighbouring property. Clerk to discuss with Chairman of Spring Gardens Allotments Association and will report back at the next meeting.

11. DO MEMBERS WISH TO ORGANISE A LITTER PICK?

A discussion took place and it was ultimately decided as the town was looking reasonably clean that no action would be taken. However, it was agreed that if the situation changed and litter was becoming a problem then one could be arranged later this year. Otherwise it was agreed that one would be organised to coincide with the Cotswolds Great British Clean up which always takes place in late May/early June in 2022.

It was noted that there are lots of kind residents who regularly pick up litter and this is much appreciated by the Council and the community.

12. UPDATE ON STOW CRICKET PAVILION AND WHETHER ANY MORE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO JOIN THE WORKING PARTY AND TO ORGANISE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at Stow Cricket Pavilion at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 27th July 2021 to discuss the way forward. Clerk will contact the volunteers who agreed to be part of this Working Party.

Cllr J Davies said she had done some weeding at the front of the pavilion. Clerk said this is something the Community Payback Team used to do and hopefully can resume again soon pandemic permitting.

Clerk said that a smart meter will be fitted towards the end of the month which will make life easier for all.

St Edward's Hall Management Committee had donated six trestle tables to Council and they had been put into the pavilion. Chairman who is a Trustee on this Committee said that if they received

any enquiries to book the hall that they could not fulfil and felt suitable for the pavilion they would be passed on and he hoped the cross utilisation of the space could work nicely.

13. WELCOME BACK FUND – TO DISCUSS MEMBERS’ FINDINGS IN RELATION TO SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING AND TO DECIDE WHETHER THE COUNCIL SHOULD APPLY FOR ANY FUNDING

RESOLVED that the Council will ask for larger refuse bins to replace existing ones outside St Edward’s Hall (by bus stop), outside Stow Social Club, Greedy’s Chip Shop and CDC Shoppers Car Park adjacent to Tesco. The design should be that which was approved by the committee some time back or something similar in design if they do not produce a larger bin in that particular design.

Motion carried.

Clerk will ensure that when a bin is selected that it will fit into the existing location without any issues.

14. VISITOR INFORMATION NOTICE BOARD ADJACENT TO MAUGERSBURY ROAD CAR PARK ALLEGED DAMAGE DURING STOW FAIR AND TO DISCUSS COST TO REPAIR

The safety glass has been smashed and had been removed. Cottage Garden Services had supplied an estimate to repair at a cost of £110 + VAT including the supply of all materials.

RESOLVED expenditure approved. **Motion carried.**

15. CLERK TO GIVE REPORT ON ASH DIEBACK GRANT APPLICATION AND TO DISCUSS ESTIMATE FOR PREPARING THE GROUND AND POSSIBLE HELP FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE TREE GROUP, COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Clerk confirmed that she had sent off the application for the grant to GCC and Council should hear in the next couple of months if it had been successful. She had asked for a minimum of 1,130 mixed hedge whips which will come with guards and sleeves. If successful they would be delivered for planting in the Autumn.

Clerk said she had spoken to the Gloucestershire Tree Group to see if they could offer help and the response had been fairly positive. She had still not been able to get hold of the Community Payback Manager as yet but will continue to pursue. She had also obtained an estimate from Stockwell-Davies Limited to prepare the ground on the two sites which includes planting, supplying and laying mulch and the total cost amounted to £1,675 + VAT. **RESOLVED** expenditure approved. **Motion carried.**

It was also suggested that when the planting takes place if any volunteers wish to get involved then they should be encouraged. The Clerk will also contact the Headteacher at Stow Primary School to see if they would be interested in getting a few pupils involved with the project at King George’s Playing Field.

16. TO DISCUSS FINDINGS OF WORKING PARTY (CLLRS J DAVIES, V DAVIES & CLAYTON) IN RELATION TO WHICH DRY STONE WALLS SHOULD BE REPAIRED FIRST AT QEII & KING GEORGE’S PLAYING FIELDS

Chairman said it had not been possible to arrange this walkabout but members present had taken a look independently.

Clerk said that she had looked at the budget and the earmarked reserve for wall repairs under the remit of this Committee. She confirmed that the QEII playing field repairs could go ahead and was hopeful that the King George’s Playing Field repairs could also be achieved this financial year too as any filming donations will be allocated to the wall repairs. **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Wayne Lockey to repair all the walls that are damaged on QEII playing field at a cost, including materials of £5,175. **Motion carried.**

17. TO DISCUSS RoSPA PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION REPORTS CARRIED OUT IN APRIL 2021 AT KING GEORGE’S PLAYING FIELD AND SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS AND ANY ACTION REQUIRED

Clerk said the reports were good and no major issues. The only item that needs attention but again is not classed as urgent is to repair the concrete skate ramp on the Multi Use Games Area. She

had obtained a cost from Greenfields Limited and to cut back the damaged concrete and lay new would cost £192.77 + VAT. **RESOLVED** expenditure approved. **Motion carried.**

Clerk said she had been contacted by a resident in relation to one of the roundabouts at the King George's Playing Field play area. She reported that it is very stiff and difficult to use. Clerk pointed out this is a DDA compliant roundabout which are very stiff for obvious reasons and when the RoSPA inspections had taken place nothing had been flagged up. Greenfields Limited said when next on site they would grease the nipple free of charge which may help.

The resident had also asked if some new play equipment could be installed and the Clerk had responded that it is the Council's wish to improve the play areas in the hope of attracting younger families to the town in line with the wishes of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Clerk also said that when social distancing is eased further the swings would be reinstalled at both play areas which had been removed during the first lockdown in line with legislation.

18. TO DISCUSS ESTIMATES TO REMOVE FURTHER ASH DIEBACK TREES ON QEII & KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS AND SPRING GARDENS ALLOTMENTS AND ACTION REQUIRED

Clerk had obtained estimates from Stockwell-Davies Limited to remove all the remaining ash trees affected by dieback at QEII & King George's Playing Fields which entailed removing all to ground level at a cost of £1,650 + VAT. She also said that an ash tree adjacent to the play area on Spring Gardens Allotments site had already been removed at a cost of £300 + VAT. **RESOLVED** expenditure approved but the Committee to ask Council if this work could be paid for out of General Reserves rather than this Committee's budget and will be on the Agenda for the June 2021 Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Clerk also pointed out that a further five Ash trees had been identified on the Tree Survey as being on Council land at Spring Gardens Allotments on the boundary with the Brio development. Clerk had been to the site and believes they are in the ownership of Brio and is trying to contact the Operations Director to arrange a site meeting to discuss. If it turns out that they are on Council land then a further £3,800 + VAT will need to be found although Clerk thought this is unlikely and will keep the members informed.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 29th July 2021 at 7.00 pm at Stow Youth Centre

20. MEETING CLOSED – At 8.19 pm.

Signed: _____ Chairman

Dated: _____