

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Recreation & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2009 at 7.15 p.m. in the Council Chamber, the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs. J. Boulton (Chairman)
Mrs. M.J. Barker
A.V. Hickmore
D. Hughes
D. Keeble
S. Leniec

In Attendance: The Town Clerk

09/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. O'Keeffe.

10/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

11/09 Minutes of Last Meeting – 7th January 2009

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

12/09 Matters Arising & Action List

The actions carried out on the Action List were NOTED.

Min. 41/08: The Clerk stated that she had not yet arranged a joint meeting nor invited a representative of ONCF to attend, because of the number of various meetings being held recently. She was asked to invite a representative to attend a scheduled meeting of the P&H Committee in the near future.

Min. 08/09: The Clerk reported on the outcome of her recent application for a Playbuilder Grant for the Tucker Park play area, which had been unsuccessful. However, she reported that grants would be available in September 2009 towards the cost of a design professional and that she and the Chairman had recently held a meeting with a local consultant with a view to submitting another application for a grant in 2010/11. The Clerk was asked to invite the consultant to the next meeting of the Committee.

13/09 Public Speaking Time & Public Question Time

There were no members of public present, and no questions had been received.

14/09 Finance – End of Year Report 2008/09

The Clerk tabled the adjusted end of year figures, and highlighted various areas of overspend, which were NOTED. However, the overspend on Churchyard maintenance, as a result of the Park Superintendent's absence, had already been authorised by the Finance Committee.

15/09 Christmas Lights

Members received the notes of a Christmas Lights Working Party meeting held on 23rd March 2009. It was AGREED that the quotations for the new Contract would be considered by this Committee after the closing date and decisions regarding the purchase of new lights would be made once the price of the new contract was known.

16/09 Town Park

Members received a proposal for improvements to the park from the Joint Environmental Trust for Faringdon, who had offered to fund the improvements and the Vale's Landscape Officer's time to design and implement the scheme. The plans were APPROVED by the Committee and the Clerk was asked to seek approval from the O.C.C., who own the park.

17/09 Tucker Park – Play Equipment

Cllr. Mrs. Boulton reported on the outcome of a recent meeting she had held with the Clerk and MRH Services at both Tucker Park and Oakwood Park. This had highlighted various concerns regarding the condition of equipment and fencing at both locations, some of which both the Chairman and the Clerk felt needed urgent attention. In view of the Committee's plans to apply for a redevelopment grant in 2010/11, the members did not wish to replace any of the larger equipment at this time, however it was agreed that any equipment deemed unsafe should be removed in the meantime. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated authority to have some of the minor works carried out, up to the sum of £500 and then to obtain estimates for replacement fencing at both locations with a view to making a bid to the Finance Committee for funding.

18/09 Land adjacent to Willes Close

The Chairman stated that she had made little progress on grant funding. Cllr. Hickmore stated that the recent VWHDC paper entitled "Strategic Housing Land Availability Study" had cited the land as redundant and identified a potential for 16 dwellings, which he felt would increase the value of the land significantly. Cllr. Leniec pointed out that the terms of the covenant attached to the land, would prevent the Council from selling the land for development, and the Clerk was asked to seek advice on whether the terms of the covenant could be negotiated with O.C.C.

Cllr. Hickmore suggested that part of Tucker Park could be used for allotments, and the Clerk was asked to put an item on the agenda for the next meeting of Trustees.

19/09 Allotments

A request from the Faringdon Allotment Society to provide a small area for car parking for Council tenants, using one of the plots currently in use by the Council, was received and considered. The request was AGREED and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the clearing of the plot and given delegated authority to spend up to £200 for the purchase of gravel.

20/09 Skate Park

The Clerk stated that she had received notification from the SK8 Park Project of a sum of £7,555 remaining on deposit which they had raised towards the new skate park, and that they were concerned about the future of the investment. Cllr. Hickmore suggested that the signatories to the bank account could be changed to the Mayor and the Town Clerk, if this was the wish of SK8, but if they were not in agreement they should be asked to suggest another way of ensuring the future of the investment.

DRAFT