

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation & Open Spaces Committee
held on Wednesday 21st October 2009
in the Council Chamber, the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs. J. Boulton (Chairman)
Mrs. M.J. Barker
D. Keeble

In Attendance: Cllr. Ms. J. Farmer
Ms. L. Owers, Leisure Services Supervisor
The Town Clerk

42/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. A. Hickmore, S. Leniec, N. O'Keeffe and M. Wise.

43/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

44/09 Minutes of Last Meeting – 2nd September 2009

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

45/09 Matters Arising from 14th July & 2nd September 2009 and Action List

Min. 31/09: The Clerk reported that neither the mower nor the drill had yet been purchased, but a cheaper Honda mower had now been identified by the Leisure Services team. It was AGREED that Ms. Owers should purchase the cheaper mower at the most appropriate time and negotiate the best price on behalf of the Council.

Min. 33/09(d): The Clerk reported that the new fencing would be erected shortly and Ms. Owers stated that the fencing in Oakwood Park had already been installed.

Min. 35/09: The Clerk reported that a problem had recently come to light concerning the scaffolding which had been erected round Portwell House. This had resulted in the Christmas Lights Contractor being unable to test the two anchor bolts on the building and it continued presence would prevent the Christmas lights being installed. The members were extremely concerned at this news and the Clerk was asked to ensure that, if this was the case, the public were made aware that this situation was not the Council's responsibility.

The actions carried out on the Action list were NOTED.

46/09 Public Speaking Time & Public Question Time

No questions had been received and there were no members of public present.

Report

Ms. Owers' written report was NOTED. Ms. Owers also reported that Cllr. Gillman had asked her to remove some ivy which was growing over the churchyard walls, as he was concerned this would cause damage to the walls which could result in costly repairs. The Clerk was asked to contact Faringdon House Estate and seek permission for Ms. Owers to go onto their land to cut the ivy at the roots.

48/09 Grass Cutting Equipment

The Clerk reported that an offer had been received from Faringdon Town Football Club to purchase the John Deere sit on mower for the sum of £2,500. However, they had already submitted a grant application to the Finance Committee for assistance in making the purchase. Ms. Owers stated that she believed the value of the mower was in excess of £2,500 and she had already received two verbal expressions of interest. The Clerk was given delegated authority to sell the mower for the best possible price.

49/09 Land Adjacent to Willes Close

Members received the legal advice requested at previous meeting, which stated that O.C.C. had failed to ensure that a vehicle and pedestrian access to the Town Council's land was constructed by Falcon Self Building Housing Association under the terms of the Conveyance made in 1987. As a result the land adjacent to Willes Close had become land locked. The Clerk stated that she had arranged a meeting with the Solicitor and C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat with a view to C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat taking up this matter with the O.C.C. on the Town Council's behalf. It was AGREED to await developments and to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

Ms. Owers offered to attempt to clear the brambles over the next few weeks.

50/09 Allotments

The Clerk stated that the expenditure of £200 already agreed to convert the Council's allotment into car parking space had proved inadequate, and one revised cost estimates for the work had now been received in the sum of £1500. It was hoped that other contractors would also submit estimates in the near future. The Clerk was given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to accept the lowest estimate received and the funds to be used from the sale of the sit on mower.

51/09 Tucker Park : Playbuilder Grant

The Clerk reported that the Playbuilder Grant application was now complete and that, following consultation with the Cllrs. Mrs. Boulton and S. Leniec, it had been agreed to employ the services of Sacha Barnes Consultants to carry out this work for an additional £395 over and above that already authorised. This action was APPROVED.

The Clerk reported that she had now submitted an application for the Play Design Grant which, if successful, would almost cover the cost of the consultant's work so far.

She stated that the Playbuilder Grant application would be submitted in the next few days.

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Keeble suggested that the Council should provide dog waste bags and a dispenser for each dog waste bin installed on its land. The Clerk was asked to look into the cost of doing so, and to ask the Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust to consider this for the dog waste bins in Tucker Park.

53/09 Precept 2010/11

The Clerk was asked to investigate prices for the following capital expenditure items:

1. Replacement junior swing for Oakwood Park
2. New climbing frame for Oakwood Park

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