

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** held on the 14th April, 2010
in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.35 pm**

PRESENT	Councillor B. Castle Councillor N. Fogg Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor R. Pitts	Chairman Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Sue Fry Mr. David Purkiss Councillor A. Ross Councillor Mrs E. Fogg Councillor A. Kirk Wilson	Office Manager Head Gardener Observing Observing Observing

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

621/09 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Spranger and S. Radnedge

622/09 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

623/09 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman apologised for the additional meeting but stated that there were still some outstanding items that he felt should be considered before the formation of a new Committee; and that the next scheduled meeting of the A & OS Committee was not until August.

624/09 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor G. Loosmore, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March, 2010 be approved.

625/09

**MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE
12TH APRIL, 2010.**

The issue of litter and unsociable behaviour at the Skate Park was raised at the Annual Parish meeting.

An additional bin has been placed by the Skate Park to try and help with the issue of litter and a further two have been ordered.

It was agreed that the outside staff be approached to see if they would do a litter pick at weekends during the summer months when they are on Priory duty. Overtime would be paid for the additional hours.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team are patrolling the area regularly to try and deal with any anti social behaviour that occurs. It was agreed that these problems should be monitored over a longer period to allow things to settle.

The surface around the Skate Park that was laid by the contractors needs attention it may be that an alternative type of surface needs to be investigated.

Councillor Pitts reported that at that recent Area Board Meeting, Councillor Wheeler the Chairman of Leisure Services had praised in the initiative used in providing the Skate Park.

Proposed by Councillor R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the outside staff be approached and asked to pick up the litter around the Skate Park at weekends whilst on Priory duty and that overtime payments be made to cover this additional work.

626/09

PRESENTATION BY HEAD GARDENER

The Chairman introduced David Purkiss the Head Gardener.

David informed members that he has now been in post for 4 weeks. During this time he has tried to establish a more productive and structured work schedule as he feels that there is a lack of direction and teamwork within the workforce.

The flower beds at the Salisbury Road Roundabout have been planted to provide year round colour.

Work has now been started at the Priory to bring this area up to standard.

Before any work can commence at High Walls a risk assessment needs to be carried out as at present there is no gate to gain access to this area.

The Committee thought that the provision of a gate at the bottom of the slope should be actioned quickly. It was agreed that only hardy drought resistant plants in this area would be practicable.

Councillors present raised the following points/questions –

Councillor Pitts the Jazz is picked out in Sedums as a quick solution to the High Wall area whilst a longer term design is developed. Done now could be in time for the Jazz in July.

The provision of a wild garden in the Old Cemetery.

The provision of a Sensory Garden and raised flower bed in the Priory.

A Community Orchard

Improvements to displays at War Memorial

Provision of suitable watering facilities for floral displays in the High Street.

Mr. Purkiss was thanked for attending the meeting and invited back to attend another meeting in 3 months time.

627/09

WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE PROVISION OF FOOTBALL PITCHES

Councillor Pitts informed members that he has spoken to members of the Football Club Committee and advised them that they need to draw up 2 papers one a Vision Statement for the Club to include the celebration of 130 years of football at the club in 2013 the other a paper detailing their need for additional junior pitches for the forthcoming season.

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillors Radnedge, Pitts, Fogg and Office Manager Mrs Sue Fry form part of the working group to join with the one from the Football Club. This working group would also consider the provision of a 'proper' mini football pitch at the Jubilee Field, Manton.

628/09

UPDATE ON CEMETERY MATTERS

a) Commonwealth War Graves

All war graves in the UK are inspected on an approximate 3 year cycle (we have 11 in total) for damage etc. The stones are cleaned every 2 years by maintenance teams, the ones at Marlborough are due to be cleaned within the next 3 month period.

b) Marlborough College – Cemetery Extension.

The Town Clerk wrote to Marlborough College enquiring about the possibility of the Town Council purchasing a section of College land to the north of the existing Cemetery unfortunately the College do not wish to dispose of this land.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should contact the owner of the land to the north of the Cemetery to enquire about the possibility of purchasing land from them to be used as an extension to our present Cemetery.

629/09 TIN PIT FIELD

The Chairman informed members that the lease has now been signed and that a fence will be erected shortly.

At present there are still horses being kept in a part of the field. The owner has contacted the Town Clerk regarding the possibility of continuing to keep them in this part of the field, once the current lease expires on the 30th April, 2010.

The Town Clerk is taking advice from the Council's Insurance Company regarding the keeping of livestock in a field that is open to the public. Dependant on the advice given it may be possible to offer this part of the field for rent on a one month rolling lease, notice of termination on either side to be one month.

630/09 INSTALLATION OF GATE – PRIORY GARDEN

It was agreed that before any decision is made regarding this item the ownership and status of the wall has to be investigated.

631/09 CEMETERY

The Committee received the following for information only –

- a) Exclusive Right of Burial/Notice of Internment
- b) Memorial Inscriptions/Additional Inscription

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm