

MINUTES of a MEETING of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** of WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL
held on **Thursday 15th February 2024**, at 28 High Street, Winslow, at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Cawdell, Castle, Hamley, and Onley

Absent: Cllr Wiseman

Clerk: S Carolan

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Wiseman

A24/11 The Committee RESOLVED to accept Cllr Wiseman's apologies.

Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

A24/12 The Committee RESOLVED that the minutes of its meeting on Thursday 18th January 2024 be signed as a true record.

Matters Delegated by Council: None

Biodiversity / Nature

The Committee noted a report from Cllrs Cawdell on progress towards establishing flower wildflower meadows, and also a response from Buckinghamshire Highways regarding the need for cultivation permits for planting on highway verges.

A24/13 The Committee RESOLVED: (a) to defer indefinitely its plans to plant wildflowers on the A413 verges and instead that the Clerk should ask Buckinghamshire Council's Winslow & Villages Community Board to consider doing so; (b) that the Clerk should take steps to progress the planting along footpath WIS/4/1, south of Langley Close from existing funds; and (c) to defer plans to apply for Community Board funding.

The Committee noted a report from Cllrs Cawdell on a meeting with Greener Winslow to discuss their request to plant flowers on WTC land along the cycle path to the north of the Cricket Pitch, and also on Buckinghamshire Council land at Three Hills.

A24/14 The Committee RESOLVED: to allow Greener Winslow to plant flowers at the back of the cycle path verge, adjacent to the recreation ground fence, and to bring to Greener Winslow's attention: (a) that Three Hills is owned and managed by Buckinghamshire Council; (b) that the verge of the cycle path forms part of the public highway, and therefore may be subject to restrictions and permits imposed by Buckinghamshire Highways; (c) that any works on the verge are to be carried out at Greener Winslow's own risk; and (d) that while WTC will endeavour not to mow the flowers, it cannot be guaranteed.

Street Scene

Members noted a report from the Clerk, including: that the new bench for Cricketers Row has been delivered to the Council's contractor for installation, and that the Welcome to Winslow sign is repaired and awaiting reinstallation on Little Horwood Road.

A24/15 The Committee RESOLVED that the Clerk should expedite the search for a replacement planter for the Buckingham Road entrance to the Town.

Playground

Members discussed a request from the Finance & Resources Committee for their opinion on whether the refurbished playground might be built on a larger plot, to the north of its current location, to allow for the construction of a new car park on Elmfields Gate.

A24/16 The Committee RESOLVED that it has no objection in principle to such a relocation, but that to avoid conflicts arising it would like to be kept fully informed of all proposals for changes at the recreation ground, and to be represented on any steering group set up to consider such changes.

A24/17 The Committee further RESOLVED that Cllr Cawdell should collate a list of concerns and questions from the Committee's members, and refer them to the Finance & Resources Committee for consideration.

Public Hall Car Park

The Committee noted the completion of the new Acco drain; that a second key has been obtained for the car park barrier; and further correspondence from Thames Valley Air Ambulance regarding a clothes recycling facility.

A24/18 The Committee RESOLVED that the car park height restriction barrier should remain closed at all times when not in use.

A24/19 The Committee RESOLVED that the Clerk should decline Thames Valley Air Ambulance's request, based on experience of a similar facility in Greyhound Lane Car Park.

Burial Ground

The Committee noted a report by the Clerk on progress with the Burial Ground extension, including the completion of the new fencing and works to clear the rear extension plot.

- A24/20 The Committee noted a new table of fees prepared by the Council's Administrator and RESOLVED to adopt the new fees from 1st April 2024.
- A24/21 Members discussed correspondence with both Network Rail and the Council's arboricultural contractor regarding the Lawson Cypress tree in the south-east corner of the burial ground. The Committee RESOLVED to proceed with a 40% reduction in the height of the tree.
- A24/22 The Committee noted damage to both the north and south lawns, potentially caused by weedkiller, and RESOLVED that the Clerk should explore options for repairing the two lawns and to place a notice on the gate emphasising that the Council is responsible for all maintenance to the fabric of the Burial Ground.
- A24/23 Members discussed the amount of decorative items currently present on graves and RESOLVED that Cllr Castle should organise a working party to tidy the Burial Ground, to include the Committee's members, the Deputy Clerk and the Council's Estates Team.

Tomkins Park

- A24/24 The Committee discussed a request from WAFTA to site a picnic bench adjacent to the pétanque terrain, but noted the presence of two existing picnic benches in that part of the park, and RESOLVED that the Clerk should seek alternative outdoor furniture items that might usefully be donated instead.

Correspondence

- A24/25 The Committee discussed correspondence from a resident regarding the dilapidated fence behind the outdoor gym and RESOLVED that the Clerk should: remove and dispose of the unserviceable section of fence.

Items for Information

The Committee's next meetings are scheduled for Thursdays 21st March 2024 and 18th April 2024.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

Signed: _____ (Chairman) at a Meeting held on **21st March 2024**