

Minutes of the Recreation and Services Committee Meeting
held on Monday 30 July at 7:30pm
at the Olney Centre

Present: Councillors Jeremy Rawlings, Deirdre Bethune, John Boardman, Stephen Clark, Desmond Eley, Tony Evans, Peter Geary, Dr Sally Pezaro, Colin Rodden, Kevin Viney.

In attendance: Liam Costello (Town Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Public forum:

- Ashley Pankhurst and Howard Tanner addressed the committee regarding the proposal they discussed at the June council meeting to install one or two Public Access Defibrillators in the town.

There are a number of defibrillators throughout the town, but none publically accessible. Howard Tanner who works as a resuscitation manager at Northampton Hospital offered to provide training for the public in their use.

With the committee's permission, the chairman agreed to add an extra item 4a to discuss Public Access Defibrillator.

1. Election of Chairman

Tony Evans and Des Eley were nominated. A vote was taken and Tony Evans was elected.

RESOLVED: That Tony Evans be elected as chairman of the committee.

2. To receive apologies for absence

None.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 be approved.

4. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None declared.

4a. Public Access Defibrillator

The committee considered the proposal to install one or two Public Access Defibrillators in the town. The chosen locations would also require a power supply for frost protection and possibly planning permission.

Locations considered included the Market Place toilets, the former BT Phonebox and the Dartmouth Road bus stop.

RESOLVED: Agree in principle for two defibrillators with precise locations to be determined at the next council meeting.

5. Market Place

a. Electrics works - quotation for additional drainage work

RESOLVED: To approve the EON quotation for the additional drainage works.

b. Toilets - Deep Clean

The condition of the market toilets was discussed and ways to improve them. Suggestions included:

- Consider outsourcing the cleaning
- External cleaning company to do a deep clean
- Development Committee consider complete refurbishment

Question was asked about the closing time of toilets at the Rec in the evenings. Could they remain open until twilight?

c. Pancake Lady

Now that S106 money has been received by MKC for 14 house development in East St, application to be made for public art S106 funding for 2nd sculpture.

d. Continental Market

Application has been received to hold a continental market during the middle of October. Meeting to be arranged and same fee to be charged as for Italian Markets

e. Noticeboard condition

Council considered the condition of the noticeboard at the market. Consideration will be given to replacing it. Approach former Howard and Mason staff who may be able to make one.

6. Recreation Ground

a. Quotations for improvement to track between tennis court and compound.

Following a request received from the tennis club to improve the drainage along the track between tennis court and compound, plans have been drawn up and quotations obtained. The tennis club have agreed to donate £1,000 towards to works.

RESOLVED: To recommend to council that an application be made for S106 funding and that the quotation from Phoenix be the preferred contractor.

b. Other pathways deteriorating

Other areas of the Rec are also in need of maintenance and improvements.

RESOLVED: Condition survey of the paths, MUGA, and other areas to be carried out to inform decisions on future improvements.

c. Bathing Steps - Provision of lifebelt

The committee considered safety issues with regards to the public swimming in the river at the Bathing Steps

RESOLVED: To review to wording on the signage and to purchase two lifebelts.

d. Litter Bins

The committee considered purchasing additional litter bins for the Recreations Ground to encourage people to keep the park clean. Chairman to review signage at Harrold.

RESOLVED: To purchase two 3-bay litter bins, to include seagull flaps

7. Dog Bin Contract

The current contractor is ceasing to trade. Prices have been obtained from a couple of alternative contractors.

RESOLVED: To award the contract for the emptying of the dog bins to Marcus Young from 06 August. Review whether to continue with twice a week contract or switch to once a week, with additional bins at hotspots.

8. Allotments - Use of electric water pumps by tenants

Reports have been received that a number of tenants are irrigating their plots with the use of electric water pumps. The committee considered whether to amend the rules to forbid this practice.

RESOLVED: To amend the terms of the tenancy agreements to forbid the use of pumps to irrigate plots.

9. Goosey bridge

The committee considered to recommendations of the technical report on the condition of the Goosey Bridge, previously circulated, and whether to impose a weight restriction on the bridge.

RESOLVED: To erect advisory signage suggesting that the bridge is weak and that a weight limit of 2.5 Tonnes. Advise tenant farmer of weight restriction.

10. Fitness groups

The committee considered the ongoing issue of charging groups for the use of council land. The difficulty arises in finding a fee regime that caters for small scale operations. Advice to be sought from Parks Trust and MKC as to how do they deal with this issue. OTC should ask for any groups operating to provide evidence of public liability and that DBS checks have been carried out.

RESOLVED: Take advice from MKC and Parks Trust as to how they deal with the issues regarding Fitness Groups operating on their land.

11. Nursery Field - Advertising on fence.

With the on-going situation at the Football Club, the committee considered whether the football club should be asked to remove the advertising banners from the fence surrounding the Nursery pitch.

RESOLVED: To ask the club to remove the signs, and give them 2 weeks to remove them. Thereafter, they are to be removed by OTC.