

A/3/2010-2011

## **WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 at 7.38pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wootton Bassett

PRESENT: Councillors: Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs,  
Mike Leighfield.

Also in Attendance: Councillors: Peter Doyle, Paul Heaphy,  
Jenny Stratton

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk,  
Michelle Temple, Administrative Team Leader  
Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader  
Susan Huish, Administrative Assistant

### ***QUESTION TIME***

To receive questions from members of the public for a period not exceeding 10 minutes.

Mr Neil Warwick of 56 Garraways, Woodshaw, Wootton Bassett spoke on behalf of residents in that area supporting their application to Wiltshire Council to purchase land at Swindon Road/Churchill Close which was included on the Town Councils item for discussion.

### **14. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Bill Roberts and Chris Wannell

### **15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were made.

## **16. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

- It was reported that the fence at New Road had recently been installed and that contractors had successfully dealt with the minor issues brought to their attention. It was further noted that Wiltshire Council had pledged £8,725 towards these improvements from Developers section 106 funding.
- The Chairman advised that the group called the Wiltshire Tree People were in discussions with the vicar at St Bartholomew's church with a view to planting a tree in the church yard to mark the memory of heroes killed in Afghanistan. No action was required by the Council and Members were asked to note this initiative.

## **17. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 [A/2/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

## **18. JUBILEE LAKE COMMUNITY GROUP**

To consider reports on meetings of the Jubilee Lake Community Group held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED to adopt the reports.

Further RESOLVED

- To congratulate members on the highly successful lake day held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010.
- The Chairman advised that she would be interested in promoting an idea that she had seen at a similar event, namely the creation of chainsaw sculptures whereby the chainsaw artist provides demonstrations for the day and, at the end of that day, the sculptures can be left within the amenity site. It was agreed that the idea was

worthy of further investigation and that the Chairman would discuss this with the Jubilee Lake Group.

#### **19. EVENTS WORKING PARTY**

To consider a report on a meeting of the Events Working Party held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

#### **20. SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Report from Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk and Michelle Temple, Administrative Team Leader. Copy circulated.

RESOLVED to note and confirm the position to date.

Further RESOLVED to

- Record a vote of thanks to Wiltshire Council for their proactive approach on this item.
- Record thanks to the new road contractor for his attention to detail in resolving issues with the new fence at that location.
- Note that a meeting of the play area working party will be called over the next few weeks to move the suggestions made forward to the next stage.

#### **21. LAND AT SWINDON ROAD /CHURCHILL CLOSE**

Circulated was a letter from residents of the Woodshaw Estate, indicating that they would wish to purchase a piece of land from Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council have requested the Town Council to consider this matter in the first instance as, although the Town Council does not own the land they would be interested in establishing whether the Council can foresee any community use for the property.

RESOLVED not to support the application made by residents until the Town Council has made enquiries as to the planning restrictions on this site, in particular, the impact of great crested newts. A report to be made back to a future meeting of the Amenities Committee.

## **22. CIVIC CENTRE – RETAINING WALL**

At a meeting of the Revenue & Resources Committee held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Members resolved to pursue quotes for the removal of the lower section of wall and re-grading of the bank at the Civic Centre. It was thought the cost of this project may be in the region of £15,000.00.

Circulated were the quotations received from Ikon Construction Ltd, Steele Davis [Swindon] Ltd and Beard.

The quotations were as follows:-

- £23,379
- £48,831.41
- £37,140

Although more expensive than originally thought Mr Haslett has advised that the cheapest quotation submitted by Ikon Construction is athmetically correct and reasonable.

The Town Council has a budget of £30,800 in its Periodic Maintenance Fund and with no other major works pending; it is within the 2010/2011 budget.

The Town Clerk did note that the extension roof at 117 would require some repairs prior to the winter but the initial quotations already received for this work could be contained within the overall budget available.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Ikon Construction at the price of £23,379 as recommended by the Councils architect.

## **23. HIGH STREET TREES**

Report from Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader. Copy circulated.

The purpose of the report was to ascertain the feasibility of increasing the number of trees in the High Street to sixty.

Officers recommendations were:

- Carry out further historical investigations to establish if the 2 trees in St Bartholomew's were part of the original 60 planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee or not.
- Appoint a tree contractor to grind out the required number of tree stumps and plant young Lime trees of the same species. That is, the Common Lime – *Tilia cordata*
- Update the High Street Trees survey drawing, re-number all of the trees, label all of the trees with a stainless steel numbered tag.
- If the need arises whereby a tree needs to be felled because of Health and Safety reasons, using the budget in place (4048 – 301) after the tree is felled, the tree stump should be ground out, a young Common Lime is planted and the replacement young tree is numbered with the same number as the felled tree.

RESOLVED to adopt the recommendations as detailed.

## **24. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT**

Report from Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader. Copy circulated.

The purpose of the report was to ascertain the best value when part exchanging vehicles owned by the Council when purchasing new replacement vehicles.

Recommendations made were:

- **Ranger One: [2002]**

Have the body work refurbished and renew the vehicle in eight years time. The Council would continue to reap the benefit of a vehicle with a very low mileage and a very good service and maintenance history.

The overall saving in doing this, compared to exchanging the vehicle of a new vehicle would be:

£15,000 price of new Ranger, minus part exchange allowance of £1,100 = £13,900.

£13,900 minus the expenditure of the body refurbishment - £3,400 = £10,500.

£10,500 over 8 years = £1,312.50 per year.

- **Transit Tipper [2002]**

Have the body work refurbished and renew the vehicle in eight years time. The Council would continue to reap the benefit of a vehicle with a very low mileage and a very good service and maintenance history. The three-way aluminium tipper body is in good working order and it is the chassis cab that would be refurbished.

The overall saving in doing this, compared to exchanging the vehicle for a new vehicle would be:

£19,000-price of new Transit Tipper, minus part exchange allowance of £2,350 =£16,650.

£16,650 minus the expenditure of the body refurbishment - £2,300 = £14,350.

£14,350 over 8 years = £1,793.75 per year.

- **Ranger Two: [2006]**

In 4 years time, review the options of either refurbishing the body and keeping the vehicle for a further 7 years, or exchanging it for as new vehicle.

By that time, a review could be done on Ranger One to ascertain the advantages and the disadvantages of having had the body refurbished and of running the vehicle for a total of 12 years.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be adopted.

## **25. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REVIEW OF INDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES**

Members were asked to consider Wiltshire Councils consultation report and documents on the review of indoor leisure facilities. This item had been included on the Agenda for discussion purposes only as it was noted that discussions might need to include many different parts of the community.

The Town Clerk advised members that he had recently met with George Croxford, Head Teacher at Wootton Bassett School to establish the Schools position, Robert Townsend, Head of Leisure Services, Wiltshire Council to receive background information regarding the review and had also touched on this discussion area in his meeting with Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, Wiltshire Council.

Members were updated accordingly.

As part of the update the Town Clerk noted that Mr Robert Townsend had offered with his colleague Lucy Moray-Brown, Leisure Partnerships and Contracts Manager to attend a future Town Council meeting with a view to helping members understand the issues that are currently facing Wiltshire Council.

**RESOLVED** to call a special meeting of the full Council inviting Robin Townsend and his colleague to attend.

Further **RESOLVED** that a small number of other interested parties, such as Mr George Croxford, Otters Club and Badminton Club also be invited to attend this meeting.

## **26. PRESS RELEASES**

The Committee was asked to consider any Press Releases issued in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

**RESOLVED** to issue a press release in respect of the High Street trees when these are due to be planted.

At the close of the meeting the Chairman, Councillor Sue Doyle, noted that this would be the final meeting attended by Susan Huish before she left the Council. Members recorded a sincere vote of thanks to Susan for her hard work, good humour and charm that she had displayed at all meetings and wished her every success with her new business.

*The meeting closed at 9.04 pm*