

A/6/2010-2011

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10th March 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wootton Bassett

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Mike Leighfield, Bill Roberts

Also in Attendance: Councillors: Peter Roberts, Jenny Stratton, Steve Walls

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk,
Emily Maiden, Administrative Assistant

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Wannell.

47. 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.

48. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Jubilee Lake Group – the Chairman noted that the Jubilee Lake Group are hoping to have an autumn craft and woodland fair. Councillor Bill Roberts asked if the group could apply to the Area Board for funding for this event. The Chairman to put this suggestion to the group. The Chairman also announced that the group are very pleased with their new bird boxes. The Guides donated 10 boxes, and the group purchased a further 18.
- Bus Shelters – all the bus shelters will have been replaced with specially designed anti-graffiti shelters by the end of next week. A brief discussion followed about the provision of lighting, where it was noted that those shelters that are currently lit at night will continue to be. It was suggested that it may be advantageous to dim the lights in the bus shelters after the departure of the last bus. The Town Clerk to consult Wiltshire Council on this matter.
- Christmas Tree Recycling - The number of trees recycled in January 2011 was 198, the highest number since collections started. Last year only saw 71 trees recycled, so this was a marked improvement.
- Wiltshire Medical Services – the Chairman noted that the Town Clerk had received an email from Councillor Bill Roberts, who had attended a meeting to discuss the Out of Hours Service. It was decided that a speaker should be invited to talk on this issue at the next full Council meeting.
- Newt Survey –the chairman gave an update on the progress of the Newt Survey. Wootton Bassett Town Council are currently waiting to hear from English Nature on the issue, as the results of the previous

survey cannot be located by Wiltshire Council. The cost of undertaking a new 12 month survey would be quite high, so it is hoped that English Nature can advise accordingly.

- Wootton Bassett Bowls Club/Memorial Hall - The Town Clerk has now attended two meetings with members of the Bowls Club and Memorial Hall Committee in an attempt to resolve the issues arising between the two parties. A fragile working arrangement has now been reached, with the Bowls Club signing an agreement regarding the allocation of parking spaces. A further meeting between the two parties will be scheduled for late April.
- The Chairman thanked the Office staff for all their hard work and commitment, especially with regards to the work they undertake relating to repatriation.

49. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 6th January, 2011 [A/5/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

50. REVIEW OF CHARGES

The Council is annually required to review the scale of fees charged for services provided by the Council. A comprehensive review of charges was undertaken in order to set the prices for the current financial year, which saw that the Council's charges were broadly in line with other Town Council's fees in the area. (Copies of the figures are available from the Office upon request).

Prior to this, it has been the policy of the Council to raise the scale of charges by 5% annually. Attached were two charts documenting recent

usage of the Civic Centre. It could be seen from these charts that the number of bookings has been steadily falling, and it is known that at least one of the regular groups have stopped using the Civic Centre due to what they felt were high charges.

The Council's budgets do not anticipate any increase in the level of income in relation to the services provided. It is therefore recommended that, in view of the harsh economic climate, the charges for the Civic Centre, Ballards Ash and the Cemetery be frozen at their current level for the next financial year.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation and freeze the charges at their current level for the next financial year. It was also decided to hold the prices for the sponsorship signs on the Town's flowerbeds.

51. CAMPUS DELIVERY PROGRAMME – COMMUNITY HALL PROVISION, WOOTTON BASSETT.

A report was attached from the Town Clerk, including a set of recommendations. These recommendations were as follows:

- a) Authorise the Town Clerk to undertake consultation with users and non-users of the Civic Centre to try and assess the needs of the town in relation to a Community Hall.
- b) Create a Working Party comprising Councillors Sue Doyle and Mike Leighfield to visit nearby facilities to see what is possible/achievable, and learn from the examples of other authorities who have provided a Community Hall.

RESOLVED to accept these recommendations.

There followed a discussion on the Campus Delivery Programme, during which the following points were raised:

- A document will need to be taken to Wiltshire Council by the end of April stating what the Town requires in terms of Community Hall provision. It would be advantageous for Councillors to circulate any ideas via email, as the timescale put forward by Wiltshire Council is extremely tight.
- Currently it appears that Wootton Bassett lacks a Hall with good acoustics for concerts and plays etc. There is also no secure storage at any of the community spaces available at present.
- There are many questions that need to be discussed and answered in relation to Community Hall provision, including:
 - a) Will the new Hall include a Mayor's Parlour and Council Chamber?
 - b) What will happen to the Civic Centre?
 - c) Will the new Hall drive others such as Church Halls out of business?
 - d) What will be offered in terms of car parking, and will this be a source of revenue?
- There were also a number of questions raised in relation to the Campus Project itself, which the Town Clerk will take to Mark Boden of Wiltshire Council. These included:
 - a) Who owns the new buildings once they are in place?
 - b) How much will the project cost overall?
 - c) Will the Campus make a profit?

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the project, the next Area Board meeting on the 23rd March is very important. Members therefore asked that the meeting be publicised on the Town Council's webpage.

Meeting closed at 8.19pm

