

BEACONSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 5th JANUARY 2012
AT THE TOWN HALL, BEACONSFIELD**

Present: S. Saunders (SS) (Acting Chairperson), K.M. Brown (KB), G. Corney (GC),
G. Davie (GD), Deborah Holmes

Apologies: Cllr. Keith, Simmonds, and Walters (AW)

Absent: Cllr. Jones

Minutes taken by Maeve Scanlon

Item 1 Apologies for Absence

These were as set out above.

Item 2 Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2011 were received, confirmed and recommended for approval.

Item 3 Matters Arising

Sports Working Group

Under Matters Arising on 3rd November 2011, Cllr Saunders was authorised to continue in his role as liaison between the sports clubs using facilities in Beaconsfield and the Town Council. He has confirmed that no meetings have taken place since he last reported to the Committee on 3rd November 2011. He has presented the Town Council with Draft 3 of the proposed terms of reference for the Working Group.

IT WAS AGREED

That the Draft as presented which listed three Terms of Reference was fair and acceptable.

Item 4 All Age Fitness Park

GD proposed that the Fitness Park should proceed and therefore this should be put to full Town Council for decision. It was confirmed that following the public consultation the majority of views were positive. Issues which concerned were parking, antisocial behaviour, worried about equipment being taken away for scrap metal etc. However, this would be within a residential area and so hopefully these would not be issues of concern. The issue of CCTV was discussed and it was agreed that this was prohibitively expensive.

GD confirmed that Town Council had already agreed to proceed with this project and he therefore RECOMMENDED APPROVAL by the Committee, which was ACCEPTED.

The actual siting of the project was discussed and recommendation for Area 1 on the plan which had been presented by Ms Holmes was believed to be easy to walk to and in the open.

As against Area 2 which was hidden away and really enclosed giving less of an option towards design. Area 2 was also closer to the houses, which could cause disturbance the neighbours.

RECOMMENDATION

It was agreed to proceed with Area 1 for the seven pieces of equipment which should have ease of access for wheelchairs. It was further agreed that this area was not to be fenced in.

Item 5 Community Payback Scheme

It was noted that the Service Level Agreement with Thames Valley Probation finished at the end of November 2011 and would recommence in March 2012. The Chairman urged the Town Councillors to think about possible work which could be added to the works list for the Community Payback team. Ms Holmes asked that the pathways at the Malthouse Square playground edges needed to be cut back and that the area noted as Area 2 (discussed under Agenda Item 4) should be cleared away.

Action

MM

**ALL
MM**

Item 6 Walk Wood – Preparation of Management Plan and Setting up of Friends of Walk Wood

It was noted that action will be taken nearer to April 2012, as per minutes of 3rd November 2011.

Item 7 Play Areas – Garvin Avenue, Malthouse Square and Holtspur Way

Estimates requested for minor maintenance at Malthouse Square and Holtspur. Garvin Avenue was still closed (as per last minutes of 3rd November 2011) until the planning application for the extended school was settled. Noted.

Item 8 Hampden Hill Grass Area – Application for Town/Village Green Status

It was noted that further news on the application currently with Bucks County Council was awaited.

Item 9 Request to Restore War Memorial

If Committee want to take this on as a Project, AW was of the opinion that this was the way forward. He suggested that the Council write to the Royal British Legion asking if they would work with the Town Council on this Project. AW further suggested to write to Anita Khan and ask that £5,000 of the Community Grant money (from the Beaconsfield Community Forum) be set aside for the project.

MM

The Committee agreed that this was the way forward. It was not just cleaning it as the lettering needed to be reworked – i.e. re-chiselling and blackening. It was suggested that the Friends of St Mary's Church would have contacts because of their work with grave stones. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should approach them in order to get contacts from whom to get quotes. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk needed to also ascertain the ownership of the war memorial. It was suggested that if she had any problems with this, then perhaps the Town Crier would be able to assist her.

MM

(Post meeting note: The Town Clerk has confirmed that the War Memorial WAs in the ownership of the Town Council)

Item 10 Request : barrier/bollards at Holtspur Way Recreation Grounds to prevent vehicle access

At the last meeting it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to Mr. Ken Moloughney at Bucks County Council (BCC) and this was done on 9th November, acknowledgment received back on 11th November saying that he would investigate and get back to the Town Council. Reply still awaited.

It was agreed that a further reminder letter be written from the Town Clerk. AW had previously suggested that this be copied to County Councillor Peter Hardy.

MM

Item 11 Request : replacement Roadside Trees

To note that no reply had yet been received from BCC regarding this item.

It was agreed that a reminder letter should be sent to BCC on this. The Clerk was also reminded that there were also two dead trees in Mayflower Way which needed to be replaced also and needed to be added to the schedule.

MM

Item 12 BMX Track

A verbal report from GD was received.

He confirmed that this was a BOTRA initiative and a meeting had been held on 3rd January 2012 which was why he had not been able to present a hard copy report. He confirmed that the Chairperson was JL. Their first priority was to find a site for the track. They had two sites in mind – one in private hands and the second site was WGLSF where there was a strip of land to the right hand side of the gate on a slope. It was suggested that a high fence would be needed around the track.

Also at that site was the picnic area currently under the charge of BCC. It was believed that if this part of the site was reorganised it may be able to facilitate a BMX track. Point going for it was that the area was always open. It was felt that should BCC be minded to hand over the land to the Town Council, that also could be a third site. KB believed there would be less vandalism in an open area near the picnic area, than in the adjacent site. Concern for the safety of children getting to the site. JL showed concern that BCC may put restrictions on the use of that land if they handed it over.

Noted. The Chairman expressly thanked all involved with this issue and sent congratulations to the team for the work already done on this project.

Action

Item 13 Floral Barrier Planting outside Costa Coffee, Cardain House

It was noted that a letter dated 8th December 2011 was sent to the management of Costa Coffee requesting that they take up the sponsorship of those containers. Their response was still awaited.

The Town Clerk was to send a reminder

MM

Item 14 Any other Urgent business

Malthouse Square Goal Posts replacement which was previously agreed has not yet taken place. It was agreed that this item should be put to the Resources Committee when costs have been identified. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate the issue. Ms Holmes suggested that perhaps the goals should be shrunk to more of a 5 aside with two goals. Ms Holmes was charged with getting some kind of paper together with options on cost.

MM

Ms Holmes

Item 15 Termination of Meeting

The meeting, having commenced at 8.42pm, terminated at 21.17pm.