

AT A MEETING OF THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2010 at 7 pm

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Caryl S Billingham)
Councillors C J Blunden, K D Bonner-Dunham, K Dixon,
P Joyce (Chairman), L D Ross, P H Stocker and
P M Titchener

Apologies: Councillors G Rhys and W B Stimpson

In attendance: Councillors C O Cartmell, D Dunham and T D Hayward

413. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

414. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

415. PLAY SPACE WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2010 were attached to the Agenda.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham said that she had written an article which could go into Town Talk and also form the basis of letters to be sent to residents. A consultation meeting would be held on 20th February 2010 in the Town Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and would also form part of the discussions at the Annual Town Meeting on 8th March 2010.

The Town Mayor pointed out that not all the open spaces in the Town had play equipment and she would wish some to remain empty. Councillor Joyce pointed out that this could well be the case but all the sites had to be looked at in the overall scheme.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting on 11th January 2010 be approved.

That an item be raised at the Annual Town Meeting.

416. RAILWAY LINE SITE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Further to Minute 367/09, the Wildlife Trust has confirmed that there is funding available for the project and has offered to match fund £750 with the Town Council. Agreement has therefore been given to go ahead with the work, which was due to start on 12th January, but because of weather conditions this has not started to date. Members noted.

417. HEDGELAYING

Reference Minute 370/09, Members were updated with the progress of the work to various hedges and the costings for this work. A saving had been made because the Town Hall staff had been doing the chipping and clearing work to assist the contractor, therefore allowing urgent work to a third area of land opposite Prices Way to clear trees which have children's tree houses within them, elder and dangerously overhanging branches. Councillor Blunden asked how many hours had been undertaken by Council staff as he felt that there should have been a considerable saving on the contractor's pricing. The Town Clerk was asked to ascertain this information for the next meeting.

418. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members were updated with the state of the Christmas lights and the costings for the 2009/2010 display. Members were advised that Mr Lomas of T L Electrical had done a sterling job to ensure that the lights continued to work, despite excessive wet conditions this year which had an adverse effect on the timers. His response when faults were reported had been immediate and he regularly checked the lights himself. He had, however, advised that further repairs would be required to the curtains on the Town Hall and some of the timers would have to be replaced next year. Members were asked to consider using T L Electrical next year subject to him submitting his costings, and also whether any additional lights were required for 2010/2011.

The Deputy Town Mayor commented that until the figures had been received, no decision should be made on whether to use T L Electrical next year. He also suggested only putting the curtains on the Town Hall on the south end and west side (road side) of the building and to purchase another motif for the front of the building, which would mean that the curtains not used could be used as spares for repairs. The Town Mayor said that she could not support any expenditure which would increase the budget next year.

Members were asked if they wished to go out to tender for next year's lights or whether T L Electrical's costings should be brought to next month's meeting of this committee. Councillor Dixon said that Mr Lomas was local and took pride in his work. The Town Mayor agreed and said he had done a good job this year but we need to know what his charges are to be for next year. She felt it would be unfair to ask for a quotation but he might be able to give a maximum figure for the work as the Town Council could not expect him to stick to a quotation.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham commented that the best lights she had seen were in towns where community groups had been responsible for the organisation of the display with a donation from the Council. She asked if there was any mileage in whether the Carnival Committee could be asked to work alongside the Council on this project, but it was agreed not to progress this idea until further information and costings were known for next year.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2010 at 7 pm

418. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Cont'd.....

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

To ascertain T L Electrical's costings for installing, maintaining and dismantling the lights next year and assess the situation when these are known.

419. INFORMATION REPORT

a) New Compost Bin Offer

A letter was attached to the Agenda promoting the use of composting containers. Councillor Dunham asked this information been circulated to schools in the town as it may be of interest. It was suggested that an article could be placed in Town Talk. The Town Mayor suggested that South Northamptonshire Council be asked to publicise this in the SNC Review.

b) War Memorial Playing Fields

A letter was attached to the Agenda concerning the National Playing Fields Association. Members commented that there were no memorial playing fields within the town.

420. ST JAMES LAKE COMMITTEE

Councillor Joyce advised that he would be standing down from his post as Chairman of the St James Lake Committee for personal reasons as he did not feel he could give it the attention it deserved. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Ross, had agreed to take over the post. The Deputy Town Mayor asked that a vote of thanks be given to Councillor Joyce for his work over the last nine years.

421. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from this Meeting during the discussion on matters relating to contracts and specific open spaces as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

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422. GRASS MOWING CONTRACT

Reference Minute 379/09, further discussions had taken place with the contractor regarding his costs for 2010 and a figure agreed. Members were advised that this had been accepted. Members noted.

423. VERMIN CONTROL

Further to Minute 369/09, contact has been made with the Pest Control Officer at South Northamptonshire Council and his findings and recommendations were outlined in the report attached to the Agenda. Members noted

424. ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

Contact had been made with Reverend Gandy about whether there were burial spaces available at St Peter's Church and the result of this meeting was outlined in the report. The Town Mayor felt that if the Churchyard was officially closed, no further approaches should be made to the Church. It was

RESOLVED:

That the matter lie on the table

Meeting closed at 7.34 pm

Chairman