

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 15TH FEBRUARY 2010 at 7 pm

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

Apologies: Councillors P Joyce and W B Stimpson

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

464. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

465. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Finlayson, St Annes Close, said he was glad to see that there was an item on the agenda regarding the sound system as he said it was getting to the point where he would not be attending future meetings as he was unable to hear what was being said a lot of the time.

466. PLAY SPACE WORKING PARTY

Councillor Bonner-Dunham advised that a consultation event would be taking place on Saturday in the Town Hall and said that this was not just about the Swift Way area but all the areas in the Town. A report on the last meeting held on 8th February of the Play Space Working party was distributed at the meeting.

467. HEDGELAYING

Referring to Minutes 370/09 and 417/09, further information was given on the areas being worked on and the costings for these.

Councillor Cartmell said a good job was being done by the contractor but commented on the point raised by the Deputy Town Mayor at the last meeting about the relatively inefficient use of the Town Council staff. He said he failed to see how it was efficient to have Town Council staff and equipment standing around 'picking their noses' waiting for 'waste' to be put into the chipper. He asked why the contractor could not accumulate an amount to be chipped all at once. Councillor Dunham commented that the men had been acquiring knowledge whilst working for an experienced contractor and this has been of benefit to the Council during the recent works at St James Lake where newly learnt methods were being put into practice. Councillor Bonner-Dunham said she took exception to Councillor Cartmell's comments about 'staff stood around picking their noses' and Councillor Cartmell's response was that perhaps the matter should have been discussed under Private and Confidential.

468. CLEARING OF ICE AND SNOW FROM COUNCIL PROPERTY

Information from the Society of Local Councils Clerks about the clearing of ice and snow from Council property was attached to the Agenda. Members noted.

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469. BREWIN CLOSE PLAY AREA

A letter had been received from a resident of Prices Way about ball games in and around the Brewin Close play area and a request made for signs to be erected on this area stating that ball games are not permitted. Councillor Rhys commented that she thought the Council had agreed not to erect any more signs. Councillor Bonner-Dunham said she did not think this was a Council issue, but was anti social behaviour.

470. LAND REGISTRY

Reference Minute 366/09, Members were advised that a meeting had been held with a representative from the Land Registry and several documents relating to various pieces of land owned by the Town Council, outlined in the report, had been taken away for Registration. The Town Mayor queried whether the Council had been maintaining land at Thomas Crewe Close which did not belong to the Town Council. This appeared to be the case and further information would be given in due course. Members noted.

471. LAND RENTED FROM SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Members decision was requested on whether the Town Council wishes to release the land known as OP2 back to South Northamptonshire Council or whether to continue leasing the land as it forms part of the riverside walk. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

To continue to lease the land.

472. BRACKLEY IN BLOOM

Members were advised that application forms for a Brackley in Bloom competition were now available from the office and details of the categories were outlined in the report. The Deputy Town Mayor suggested that the gardens should be restricted to 'front' gardens or areas which could easily be seen from the road and whether there should be an entry fee. The Town Mayor replied that she thought entry should be free for the first year and then gauge the response.

473. MEMBERS REPORT – WAR MEMORIAL AND PIAZZA SEAT

A report, compiled by the Town Mayor, was attached to the Agenda. She said she had nothing further to add but felt very strongly that consideration should be given to placing Nic Webster-Smith's name on the war memorial. Councillor Titchener agreed with the addition of the name and with the pitched coping stones to cover the flower beds. Councillor Bonner-Dunham also thought this was an excellent idea. She also asked if the lettering on the memorial could be looked at as some names were difficult to read. It was

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473. MEMBERS REPORT - WAR MEMORIAL AND PIAZZA SEAT Cont'd....

RESOLVED:

That costings be sought for the installation of pitched coping stones to cover the flower beds on the war memorial.

That agreement be given to the addition of Nic Webster-Smith's name, date, location and rank to the memorial.

That the Royal British Legion adopt the top bench on the east side of the piazza and that a plaque be placed on it.

474. LICENSING

Members views were sought on an application for the renewal of a street trading consent for 'Millennium Kebab'. No reasons to object were known.

475. 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 the sound system and telephone system in the Town Hall as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

476. SOUND SYSTEM

Members were advised that a company had been asked to look at the sound system and a report was attached to the Agenda for Members consideration. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That a specification be drawn up as to what was required and additional quotations sought.

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477. TELEPHONE SYSTEM

A quotation had been received for 2 x two line telephones plus re-wiring of telephone sockets and an answerphone facility to be installed in the office at a total cost of £565. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the above quotation from Bicester Electronics at a cost of £565 for the installation of 2 x two line telephones, plus re-wiring of telephone sockets and an answerphone facility be accepted.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman