

AT A MEETING OF THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 24TH MAY 2010 at 7 pm

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Chris Blunden)
Councillors K D Bonner-Dunham, K Dixon, T D Hayward
P Joyce, G Rhys, L D Ross, W B Stimpson , P H Stocker
and P M Titchener

Apologies: Councillor P J Broomfield

In attendance: Councillors C S Billingham, C O Cartmell and D Dunham

40. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Joyce nominated Councillor Ross and this was seconded by Councillor Titchener. It was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ross be elected Chairman of this Committee for the ensuing year.

41. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Stimpson nominated Councillor Titchener as Vice Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor Dixon. It was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Titchener be elected Vice Chairman of this Committee for the ensuing year.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

43. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

44. NATIONAL TRUST – BRACKLEY PARK

Notes from a meeting with the National Trust, held on 12th May, were attached to the Agenda. The Town Mayor said this had been a very useful meeting and he had expressed concern that the Park was costing the Town Council a considerable amount of money to maintain. Regarding the Fire Station, the National Trust were well aware that when the building becomes empty something needs to be done with it and the Town Mayor suggested that the public be invited to suggest how the building could be used for the benefit of the Town. These ideas could then be discussed with the National Trust to see if any fulfil its current criteria and also produce a profit income of £10,000 per annum to maintain the area. Councillor Hayward had suggested at the meeting that perhaps the Town Council could have

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44. NATIONAL TRUST – BRACKLEY PARK Cont'd...

the building for a peppercorn rent but no mention had been made of transferring the building to the Town Council's ownership. The Town Mayor advised that he had spoken to the owners of the neighbouring property, who indicated that they would like to put their suggestions forward.

Councillor Stimpson thought public consultation was an excellent idea and suggested this be done through Town Talk, to be followed up by a public meeting. Councillor Hayward commented that this would not go out until August and suggested that perhaps an article could be put on the website. The Town Mayor also suggested the press could run an article and also something on Brackley On Line Post. Councillor Titchener asked what the limitations were for the building and said the public must be made aware of these.

Questions were raised by Councillors Joyce, Bonner-Dunham and Rhys about the state of the building and concern expressed about what repairs/refurbishment could cost. The Town Mayor replied that the alternative was to hand the building back to the National Trust. Councillor Billingham commented that the park was given with the condition that it would never be built on and given the possible archaeological remains in the area, planning permission may not be given for extensions to the Fire Station

The Town Mayor advised that the County Council had had a full repairing lease with the National Trust and if the Town Council took the building on, it would be under the same conditions. The Trust were also looking into anti-vandalism measures.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

To ask the National Trust what state the building would be in when it is handed over.

45. ROAD CLOSURES FOR BRACKLEY BEER FESTIVAL

Details of a road closure for the Brackley Beer Festival were outlined in the report. It was

RESOLVED:

That no objections be raised.

46. THOMAS CREWE CLOSE

Members were advised that Countryside Properties had confirmed that it would pay the commuted sum of £2,000 plus legal fees for the Town Council's adoption of land at Thomas Crewe Close. Members noted.

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47. LAND REGISTRY

A list of registered documents were contained in the report for the information of Members. Members noted.

48. ST JAMES LAKE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2010 had been circulated with the Agenda. Councillor Dunham said that the Angling Club was very enthusiastic about what it did in the Lake area, although he stressed that it was an amenity for the entire community. Councillor Bonner-Dunham commented that she had been made to feel that she was 'encroaching' by the anglers when she visited the Lake. Councillor Stimpson disagreed and said he had always found them extremely courteous and that they had put a lot of work into the area over the years. It was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be accepted.

49. PLAY SPACES WORKING PARTY

Councillor Ross said there was nothing further to report at the moment but a meeting would be arranged in the near future.

50. TREE

Councillor Stocker asked if there was a problem with one of the trees on the piazza and was advised that this had been noticed and was being monitored.

Meeting closed at 7.32 pm

Chairman