

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Direct Responsibilities and General Purposes Committee held at 7pm on Monday 19 August 2013, in the Upper Hall, Town Hall, Brackley.

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Peter Rawlinson) (ex officio),
Councillor Baker (Chairman)
Councillors Blunden, Cartmell, Morrell, Thompson, Wiltshire.

Officers: Linda Carter, Alison Coomber.

In attendance: Councillors Hayward, Rhys, Dixon

144/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bonner-Dunham, Dutton, and Stimpson. The CEO asked that members accept Cllr Stimpson's apologies for an extended period due to his continuing health issues and it was **agreed** for a period of three months.

145/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

146/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

147/13 MEMBERS REPORTS

None.

148/13 ST JAMES LAKE WORKING PARTY

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the St James Lake Working Party held on 17th July 2013 be received and approved.

Cllr Baker highlighted the Grand Opening of the accessible fishing platforms and footpaths on 31st August 2013 and that all councillors were invited.

149/13 ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY

The CEO indicated that Brackley Allotments Association had expressed its preference for the eight plots at the cemetery, due to be reduced or reclaimed, to be reduced by half. This reduced area would then be offered on a 10 year lease, not a 21 year lease as the rest of the plots, and the leases would be worded so that the Council could determine the leases earlier if demand for burial space increased significantly.

Other sites had been considered for additional plots though the Allotments Association did not feel that they were suitable at present. The preference was for a larger site which the Council and the Allotment Association would pursue with SNC, based on the Radstone Fields s106 agreement

The remainder of the items outlined in the minutes were discussed by members.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Allotments Working Party held on 30th July 2013 be received and approved.

150/13 Christmas Lights

A quotation was presented to the committee detailing the costs of the solar powered Christmas trees showing 38 as last year or extending to 50 trees for the coming Christmas. T L Electricals who carry out PAT testing and erection of the curtain lights and Christmas tree at the Town Hall had stated that this year is probably the last year that the lights will be usable. Members were assured that the cost of the additional trees and the works carried out by TL Electricals could both be achieved within the budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the order be placed with Plantscape Ltd to extend the lighting scheme to 50 trees at a cost of £99.95 per tree, £4,997.50 +VAT in total

151/13 OFFICERS REPORTS**a) Cemetery**

Members received the Cemetery Report, previously presented in June, and considered the remaining recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following recommendations be approved:

- 1 That the location of the additional plots be aligned with the new fencing once the allotments had been reduced as agreed.
- 2 That the roadway be extended into the new area using Grasscrete
- 3 That the current benches be relocated to accommodate the additional plots after consultation with owners/relatives.
- 4 That a 6 or 8 sided bench be purchased and installed around the tree in the cremation section to accommodate memorial plaques and that th service be communicated to local Funeral Directors
- 5 That a notice board/sign (6 x A4) be installed and that the topple testing sign be removed.
- 6 That the proposals in relation to training for memorial stability testing be expedited.
- 7 That the cemetery regulations be reviewed and brought back to this committee and that, once approved, an abbreviated version be displayed at the Cemetery. Action should then be taken to enforce the regulations, as appropriate.

All spending items would be brought back to the committee for approval, with costings, when they were due to be actioned.

b) Survey and Mapping of Trees

Quotes had been sought from four organisations with two received. It was recommended that the contract be awarded to AGU Treecraft. Councillor Rawlinson suggested that they be encouraged to complete the work by the end of the year to enable provision to be made in the 2014/15 budget for recommended tree works.

It was **RESOLVED** that the contract for the tree survey and mapping be awarded to AGU Treecraft in the sum of £6275.00 + VAT.

152/13 TREE POLICY

Members considered the proposed policy and Cllr Wiltshire offered an amended document. A new policy showing the suggested amendments would be brought back to next meeting for consideration and approval.

153/13 URGENT BUSINESS

The CEO reported that, following approval of their proposal and the costs involved, a confirmed price of £8916.25 + VAT had been received from White Horse Contractors Ltd for the flood alleviation works at Brewin Close.

Member would be notified when the works were to commence.

Cllr Thompson raised the matter of a 'No Hard Ball Games' sign at De Quincy Close which was previously attached to the street light. The light had been replaced in a different location and there was now no suitable pole for the sign to be attached to. The CEO indicated that she was aware of the issue and had been in contact with Balfour Beatty. Cllr Thompson agreed to forward an email from residents offering to put up the sign up themselves. Costs would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm

Chairman:

Date: 19th August 2013