

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2016
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR,
WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr S Parnes (Chairman)
Cllr F Collingwood (Ex officio)
Cllr A Grant
Cllr E Poskitt (Ex officio)
Cllr S Rasch
Cllr P Redpath
Cllr E Stokes

EC/34/16 APOLOGIES: None

EC/35/16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: none

The meeting started late due to an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council immediately prior.

EC/36/16 MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 23rd August 2016 be agreed and signed by the chairman as a true record.

Cllr Redpath pointed out that the asbestos at the OWL had been removed at a cost but that there was additional asbestos on the site and that it required a budget item

EC/37/16 MOTION

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Redpath seconded that:

Woodstock Town Council Environment Committee confirms its disappointment and concern in relation to comments by the Chief Executive of Blenheim who said at the Traffic Advisory Committee's 12th October meeting that there were no traffic issues with the October 2nd event, that the traffic had been flowing leading up to the 10.30am start, and that he was disappointed with press reports. Those comments seem contradictory to time-stamped photographs, personal experiences of some Town Councillors, online comments, and press reports of which Committee Members are aware. The Committee is further disappointed that local residents were not informed in advance of loud noise from simulated gunfire or explosives (i.e. automatic weapons, mortar and cannons) during a recent filming activity at the Palace. As such, due to environmental concerns including pollution highway congestion, and noise, the Environment Committee recommends:

- ***that the JCTPD (Joint Committee for Town/Palace Dialogue) open its meetings to public attendance; and***
- ***that this motion be communicated to the Traffic Advisory Committee, the JCTPD and Woodstock Town Council***

Cllr Poskitt thought there had been a circular concerning the filming activity but most members of the committee had not seen one.

RESOLVED 4 in favour Cllrs Stokes, Grant, Parnes, and Redpath
1 against Cllr Rasch
2 abstentions Cllrs Collingwood and Poskitt

EC/38/16 WATERMEADOWS

• ***fence repairs***

A quote had been received from Wychwood Project but there was uncertainty as to what this entailed.

AGREED to defer to Council and members to report to Council on what was required.

(ii) ***tree work***

The committee considered a report from the Clerk that branches overhanging from the Watermeadows into an Oxford Road property could be cut back by the Wychwood Project at no up front cost to the Council. Normally this would be the responsibility of the resident but was a big job.

The clerk was to obtain an approximate timescale for the work to be undertaken and how much it would take from the Watermeadows contact.

EC/39/16 PLAY AREAS

• ***Insurance claim – New Road play equipment***

The committee received a report by the clerk regarding damage to train and balance beams. The insurance claim could not be settled until an invoice had been received from Wickstead. This had been delayed whilst negotiations took place with the insurers and the date given by Wickstead for installation had passed. The clerk was chasing Wickstead for a revised installation date.

• ***Repairs to fencing***

The committee received a quote for the replacement of damaged fencing at New Road play area. The two quotations were one for a small section of wooden fencing as opposed to a new metal loop fence.

Cllr Collingwood stated that as member with responsibility for finance he could not recommend the more expensive metal fence repair.

Agreed to report to Council for decision.

EC/40/16 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

(i) ***Christmas tree and lights***

The committee received a report from the clerk confirming that the Christmas tree on Market Place was to be donated by the Duke of Marlborough and would be installed on 22nd November; and that the lights would be installed week commencing 21st November - to be taken down week commencing 9th January. The lights were to be switched on by the Duchess of Marlborough on Saturday 26th November at 6.00pm. Cllr Poskitt reported that some funds had been raised at the "This is Woodstock day" for Christmas lights.

• ***Additional tree – Oxford Street***

The committee had been advised that the cost to the resident of lighting the additional tree would be £412. The resident to be told that this would be an annual cost and to confirm if he was prepared to meet this year's and ongoing costs.

EC/41/16 PUBLIC PAYPHONES

The committee was advised of proposals to remove public payphones and that British Telecom was undertaking a public consultation. Concern was expressed at the loss of the facility of public payphones in what is a high tourist area. It was noted that the payphones were able to receive calls and the committee was in favour of retention in key areas.

The chairman to respond to the consultation.

EC/42/16 ENVIRONMENT BUDGET 2017/18

Cllr Collingwood as member with responsibility for finance warned that the Council finances would be stretched in the forthcoming year and he advised against an increase in budget.

The committee was in favour of purchasing new noticeboards noting that a number of the existing ones were in a very poor state of repair. It was recommended that aluminium boards be purchased as they required less ongoing maintenance.

Suggestions for new locations were given as the southern end of Shipton Road to provide information to passing pedestrians from the new Marlborough Place residents, and also near to the bus stop opposite the Palace gates.

It was calculated that there was a need to budget for 3 x new noticeboards in 2017/18 and to make good others.

The estimated budgeted cost was £3,000

Cllr Collingwood suggested a bid also be placed for £5,000 to repaint the railings outside the Hensington Road cemetery.

The chairman was concerned that there would be additional works to be undertaken at the OWL extension.

It was noted that there had been a suggestion for an increased payment for cutting the football field but felt that this was unaffordable at the present time.

The committee requested sight of the Wychwood Project contract for the Watermeadows and asked that it be an agenda item for the next meeting of the committee.

The meeting closed a 10.20pm

Signed.....

Date:.....

