

COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 1 December 2009
7pm at Ockwells

Councillors present:

Cllr T Robertson– Chairman	Cllr B Atfield	Cllr B Beasley	Cllr R Case
Cllr T Clements	Cllr P Colmer	Cllr M Hatton	Cllr R Szybiak
Cllr D Tetlow			

5 Members of the public

The fire instructions on the entrance door were pointed out.

Public Question Time – Cllr Peter Colmer asked the Committee if they were aware of the recent newspaper article relating to Leisure Centres being under threat by Wiltshire Council. Following discussions it was agreed Cllr Colmer would write to Wiltshire Council asking for clarification of the newspaper reports and the ATC would write to the local prospective parliamentary candidates and ask for support for Wiltshire leisure centres in their manifestos’.

Mr Chris Morley pointed out to the Committee that the CTC website has not been updated with the new committee meeting dates. The Assistant Clerk agreed to check and amend as necessary.

MINUTES

09.87 Apologies for absence – Cllr G Chapman.

09.88 Declarations of Interest – Cllr T Robertson and Cllr R Szybiak regarding Agenda Item 7.

09.89 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 November 2009 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

09.90 Clerk’s report on action points from 3 November

08.10 - Long Close

A meeting took place on 20 May between D. Tetlow, English Heritage (EH) and Wiltshire Council Archaeology Dept (WCAD) to look at the Town Wall Monument. Following this meeting EH and WCAD have proposed a management plan for the walls with a working group to be formed in the near future. On the 5 May it was RESOLVED for the Assistant Clerk to write to Wimpey Taylor regarding the state of the land, a letter was set o Wimpey Taylor regarding the state of the land and our disappointment that the transfer of land has not taken place – a verbal reply had been received - ATC waiting for more information. A further letter with photographs was sent 12 August. A follow up email was sent – no reply. Action: Town Clerk to write to the Managing Director.

08.86(ii) – Abingdon Court Farm Open Space

Letters have been received from residents regarding the condition of the open space between Abingdon Court Farm and Fairview. Colin Brown (WC) visited on 1st Oct and met with ATC and Cllr Atfield. Another site visit has been made by WC Officers – Agenda Item.

Area of Land Behind Meer Stone

Colin Brown (WC) visited site on 1st October and met with ATC and Cllr Atfield. Another site visit has been made by WC Officers – Agenda Item.

09.73. Meer Stone Plaque

On the 6 Oct, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a replacement bronze plaque. Proof received and accepted.

09.18 - Exclusive Rights of Burial

Suitable package identified and agreed by C & L committee - to take to FTC for approval and funding. ATC looking at in house provision.

09.37 – Parish Improvement Grant

Cllr Chapman has met with members of the Footpath Group and is moving forward with the grant application. An area identified for improvement is the path between Bath Road and Doubledays, a complete repair would cost around £30,000, we have asked for quotes to make the route passable as an alternative to completely resurfacing. ATC has chased up request for quote

09.72 – Closed Churchyards/Cemetery Maintenance

Following meeting of 3 Oct – ATC has contacted WC regarding CTC standing with listed monument repairs and maintenance - WC has requested photographs and maps of locations

09.08 - Cricklade Day Centre

Action from 3 Nov meeting: Town Clerk to send letter of thanks to M. Wills MP for his support, Cricklade Residents to be informed of the new development and the press who have been very supportive. Letters have been sent. The Trustees have sent a letter to Mrs McLaughlin regarding the mini bus.

Fairview Fields Ditch Clearance

Work has been completed. Cllr Chapman said they had done a very good job and thanked them for their hard work – ATC to send letter of thanks. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Mr Peter Richards, Chairman of Abingdon Court Farm Management Committee stated that a large gap in the hedge has appeared since the ditch clearance work and would this be rectified. Cllr Robertson agreed to look at the area in question and report back.

09.91**Burial Fees**

Consideration was given to the revision of the Burial Fees for 2010. It was **RESOLVED** to apply a 5% increase as follows:

- (A) **COFFIN BURIAL** - In a single depth earthen grave for 99 years.
 - a) Of the body of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed five years old from £83.00 to £87.00
 - b) Of the body of other persons in a single depth grave from £250.00 to £263.00
- (B) **COFFIN BURIAL** - In a double depth earthen grave for 99 years.
 - a) First Interment from £321.00 to £337.00
 - b) Second Interment from £125.00 to £131.00
- (C) **CREMATIONS** - Interment of ashes in earthen grave for 99 years.
 - a) Interment of ashes in Memorial Garden from £110.00 to £116.00
 - b) Interment of ashes in a normal size grave plot from £250.00 to £263.00
 - c) Second Interment from £105.00 to £110.00

MEMORIALS:

Memorial and Plinth from £132.00 to £139.00
 Additional Inscription from £72.00 to £76.00
 Permitted Alterations from £61.00 to £64.00

09.92 Italian Market

Consideration was given to the offer from Wiltshire Council to hold an Italian market in Cricklade during May 2010. Wiltshire Council would organise the market and work in partnership with Cricklade on publicity, WC have offered a site visit to Cricklade to explain in more detail the logistics of holding such an event. During a Suspension of Standing Orders – Bob Jones, Chairman of Cricklade Business Association (CBA) stated that a previous attempt to hold a French market had met with opposition from local traders, however he now felt that with consultation and proper advertising this type of event would be accepted as a positive move to bring in more visitors to the town. It was AGREED to invite the market representative to Cricklade with a CBA representative attending.

09.93 Fairview Fields Car Park

Cllr Case asked the Committee to give consideration to the improvement of the Fairview Fields Car Park – by providing a more suitable surface which would accommodate buggies and wheelchairs giving direct access to the bus stops and to provide signage to promote the area. Cllrs agreed the area needed to be made more user-friendly - tarmac is not an option because of the flooding in the area, however it was felt that if the surface was built up the flooding of the car park would be reduced to a more acceptable level. Following further discussion it was RESOLVED for the ATC to seek advice and costings on possible improvements to the car park surface. The request for signage for the car park etc and improved access to the Millennium Wood and Thames Path will be looked into by the ATC who will work with John Coole – ATC, as he has already been in contact with WC regarding the appropriate signage for the Town Centre Car Park and it seems sensible for both ATC's to work together on this issue. Cllr Case pointed out that a representative from Visit Wiltshire had recently been to Cricklade and had highlighted the lack of signage to town centre, public conveniences and areas of interest (Millennium Wood, North Meadow, Blake Hill Nature Reserve etc), this was noted. A request from the Climate Change Working Party was considered for the provision of cycle racks and a pedestrian gateway from Fairview Fields EMR as this falls under new development and not maintenance, it was AGREED to refuse the request.

09.94 The Fiddlers Allotments

Consideration was given to the letter received from Mr R New, Chairman of the Fiddlers Allotment Society relating to flooding, security and state of plot 1 - The report provided by the ATC relating to the letter was also discussed. Flooding – There are 5 plots that have become waterlogged following the removal of topsoil, CTC has asked an engineer to have a look at the allotments and surrounding ditches. Security – Following the break-ins a Wiltshire Police Crimes Reduction Officer visited the allotment site and the ATC has requested a copy of the report. Plot 1 – Following the removal of the topsoil on this plot it was discovered that 50% of it was stone. It is believed not to be too deep as historically the area contained a great number of Nissan huts which did not have deep foundations. It was AGREED to offer the plot holder a reduction of 50% on the annual rent charge or the opportunity to surrender plot and return to top of allotment waiting list, plot would be offered to next on list.

09.95 Abingdon Court Open Space and Surrounding Areas

(ref Clerks Report 08.86(ii)) Following the visits from Colin Brown – Wiltshire Council – he has provided the following information:

Abingdon Court Farm Open Space: The proposal from WC is to cut the area twice a year and to sow wildflowers in consultation with CTC and local residents. Colin Brown has also made an informal request that once the area is made good, CTC take ownership and responsibility, if CTC indicate their interest he will move forward. Following discussions it was RESOLVED to accept the informal proposal and request a one off payment towards the future maintenance of the area. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Mrs Margaret Nichols, Resident of Abingdon Court Farm said that the residents had been promised a wild flower meadow when they moved in and they felt short changed as Hannick Homes had only sprinkled seeds and nothing else. . However, residents have their doubts that WC will devote the resources required to establish a wildflower meadow because the area is infested with nettles and dock leaves, the best option maybe just keeping it cut and tidy. The area is used by a lot of dog walkers and the question of dog faeces not being picked up and the lack of signage relating to this was raised but this discussion was deferred to another time. Mr Chris Morley – Cricklade Historical Society, pointed out that a great deal of spoil from the construction of the Abingdon Court Farm houses was thrown on to this area creating an uneven surface (need to confirm that area is not ridge and furrow) and it should be levelled before we accept the transfer - ATC to discuss with David Osborn – Groundsman if the

machinery we currently own could mow the area in current state of unevenness.

Area of Land Behind Meer Stone: The hedging between the Open Space and Stockham Close will be cut back to 6ft before the end of the winter period by WC. This was NOTED. Ownership of the land behind and to the right side of the Meer Stone is still under investigation, Thames Water may have rights over it to reach the pumping station and historically the path may have been the route taken to the Thames for baptisms - once WC have established ownership and if it belongs to them they will tidy the area. Colin Brown has also made an informal request that once the area is made good, CTC take ownership and responsibility, if CTC indicate their interest he will move forward. Following discussions it was RESOLVED to accept the informal proposal and request a one off payment towards the future maintenance of the area.

Hatchetts: Ownership of the land to the right hand side of the slipway is still under investigation. Once ownership is established and if owned by WC they will tidy the area. Colin Brown has also made an informal request that once the area is made good, CTC take ownership and responsibility, if CTC indicate their interest he will move forward. Following discussions it was RESOLVED to accept the informal proposal and request a one off payment towards the future maintenance of the area.

With reference to all the above parcels of land it was AGREED we must be aware of the responsibilities that ownership would bring before accepting any offers.

Wiltshire Council Land: ATC to make a list of identified areas to bring back to Committee.

09.96 Correspondence

A letter has been received from Cricklade Girl Guides requesting permission to plant a tree with a memorial plaque to celebrate 100 years of Guiding UK. Following discussions the Committee AGREED with the request with the location to be decided at another time.

09.97 Wayleave Agreement

A request from British Telecom to replace the faulty telephone cable that runs under the Cricket Pitch to the Sewage Works. The proposal is to lay a buried cable direct into the ground from the base of the existing pole, around pavilion building to the entrance of the sewage works. The work will take about 10 days and will commence as soon as the flooding in the area has subsided. The Cricket Club have been informed of the planned works. A wayleave payment is offered, consideration was given to the beneficiaries of the payment, as the work will be done out of season and with no disruption to the cricket club, the payment will be made to CTC. Cllr Hatton was concerned that the land would not be returned to its current standard. It was AGREED to sign the agreement with the ATC seeking confirmation that the area would be restored to current state, ATC to take photographs of ditch as is (after flooding before work commences).

09.98 Working Party Update

Community Garden – working party to be arranged in near future.

Tree of Remembrance – Work on the trifold is almost complete, obtaining pictures of selected trees for trifold.

Cricklade Country Way – Meeting to be held on December 2nd.

Eastern Roundabout –Wiltshire Highways have inspected the area involved and noted defects. At the moment they are in discussion with Highways Agency regarding these issues, which will need to be rectified before they will consider taking over.

Meeting Closed at 8.23