

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Malmesbury on 24th May 2007 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Bowen, Cox, Miss E Davis, Killane, Goldstone, Lawton, Sanderson, Snell, Thomas, Woodcock

Public Participation: No members of the public were present

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Denley

2. **Declarations of interest:** none

3. **Minutes**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee held on the 8th March 2007 be received and adopted.

4. **Play Strategy for North Wiltshire 2007 – 2012 Draft Consultation**

The committee clerk advised that the Big Lottery has allocated £124m to local authorities to improve play provision for ages between 0 to 25 and that North Wiltshire District Council had subsequently been allocated a £237,000 share of this funding. As part of their bid for this funding NWDC must formulate a Play Strategy which should include identified projects or play schemes from towns or parishes in the district. At a meeting held on the 17th May NWDC had discussed a number of schemes put forward by other towns, however all towns were now being invited to submit a scheme for consideration by the 15th June.

In view of the tight timescale the Town Clerk had requested that the committee clerk invite Playdale to produce a scheme for older children, to be sited at the Filands site, for consideration by this Committee. This side of the town is less well catered for especially as Reeds Farm has no play provision. The Town Clerk requested that a letter should be sent to the developers of the Filands site stating that the Town Council was exploring the idea of placing play equipment on the site and that the impetus for this was possible funding now available from the district council.

Some discussion took place and the following key points were raised:

- The Reeds Farm development is perhaps more deserving, especially as residents had lost a play area some years ago due to land drainage issues and unsafe equipment that had to be removed.
- The Reeds Farm site may be considered too isolated, as it is remote from most of the housing.
- If MTC decides Reeds Farm is going to be the chosen site for such a scheme then members should be very careful not to raise residents' false hopes, as in reality £237,000 is a small sum for distribution across a number of towns and Malmesbury may not be successful in obtaining funding.
- As Reeds Farm is already occupied the town council should attempt to galvanise the support of the local community.

- The land drainage issue at Reeds Farm could be overcome with a French drain system.
- The developers of the Filands site were seeking planning approval for building on two smaller parcels of land that had recently been acquired. This may present an opportunity for play provision on this site.
- Community support should be sought from The Action for Children on Reeds Farm group.

Proposal the Action for Children on Reeds Farm group should be contacted without delay and invited to meet with Cllrs Sanderson, Killane and Woodcock.

5. Cloister Gardens

The committee clerk updated members and advised that the planning application was still being considered by the conservation officer at NWDC. Whilst reaching a decision NWDC had been advised by English Heritage that an archaeological mitigation statement would be required to support the application. The committee clerk had subsequently spoken with English Heritage and pointed out that the DCMS had already advised that the mitigation statement could be treated as a condition attached to the consent and so consequently would not be required at this stage and thus holding up planning approval.

Cllr Bowen advised that a sub committee had been formed in February 2007 to look further at the potential of the Cloister Gardens and Cuckingstool Mead, for fuller community use and suggested that this sub committee is reformed.

Proposal Cllr Sanderson proposed that this sub committee of Cllrs Cox, and Thomas is reformed and to co-opt Cllr Bowen onto this sub committee. Seconded Cllr Killane.

Cllr Bowen requested that the Committee clerk provide Cllrs Cox and Thomas with copies of the Malmesbury Rivers' Enhancement Scheme, which had been produced by two former members of this committee.

6. Newton Grove

Councillors expressed dissatisfaction with the equipment and play space provided at this site by Westlea Housing Association and the following key points were made:

- The stainless steel slide faced direct sunlight for the majority of the day and heated up to an unacceptable level.
- The fence was insubstantial and inferior to the original metal fence, which had been removed. This new fence would not provide adequate protection for children in the event of a road traffic accident.
- Dropped kerbs had been sited adjacent to the new houses along Park Road which could result in a parking problem on this bend, where children would inevitably be crossing the road.
- The grassed area had been filled with builders' rubble where football will be played by youngsters.
- Consultation with local residents had been ignored and consequently the equipment provided does not cater for older children.
- In light of this apparent dissatisfaction MTC should now seize the opportunity to give residents what they want in the future.

It was agreed that Cllr Sanderson should approach NWDC when the new houses opposite have been occupied to secure the site for the town council. Cllr Bowen

suggested that it is crucial for MTC to seek to secure the land as a play space for the future people of Malmesbury and to seek to own the land and equipment rather than lease it, to prevent losing it to further housing development.

7. Cuckingstool Mead

Cllr Sanderson referred to point 5 and the reformed sub committee.

8. White Lion Park

Cllr Sanderson requested that it is recorded for the record that he was the link between the WLRA and the Town Council during the last municipal year but that he was not an official member of the WLRA committee although he had been invited to attend a number of meetings and had acted as referee for the lottery application.

Proposal Cllr Goldstone proposed that Cllr Killane now acts as link between the WLRA and Malmesbury Town Council. Seconded by Cllr Woodcock.

Cllr Killane advised that the signage concerning dogs at the recreation ground was causing confusion and was inadequate. The committee clerk responded that the signs were currently being improved to reflect the complete dog ban that is now in place. Some discussion took place surrounding the problems with dogs and it was agreed that a press release would be made when the correct signage was in place. It was also agreed that the next newsletter should highlight the ongoing problems with dogs.

Cllr Killane advised that the new fence had been vandalised and that a hole had been made. The committee clerk stated that the maintenance staff had inspected the fence and a panel may have to be replaced, but that a temporary repair could easily be made. It was agreed that a temporary repair should be made at this stage. It was also agreed that the committee clerk request maintenance staff to turf around the goal posts.

Cllr Killane advised that it was the intention for the WLRA to hold the official opening on the weekend of the 28th July when ITV will be invited to film. The temporary fencing will be kept in place until the day of the opening.

Cllr Killane advised that the WLRA would now like to request additional matched funding from the Town Council for:

- Reconcreting the goal posts £500
- Removing the slide £1100
- Providing container storage during installation £300.

The committee clerk advised that there were sufficient funds available from the original allocation of £5000 for the WLRA, which had been rolled over to this financial year.

Proposal Cllr Sanderson proposed that the MTC match fund these three items and provide the required 50%. Seconded Cllr Goldstone.

9. Committee Clerk's report

The committee clerk distributed a written report (copy attached) and reported that the sign for the Dog Exclusion Order had been placed by NWDC by mistake in the Newton Grove play area. MTC have requested that the mistake is rectified.

Cllr Bowen advised that he had been approached by youngsters at St Aldhelm's Mead, who had complained that, because of the location of the goal posts, their football was constantly being kicked into the river. It was agreed that the sub-committee of Cllrs Bowen, Cox and Thomas examine solutions to this problem such as a graffiti wall or fence, as part of their remit.

Cllr Cox suggested that the Leisure and Youth committee should consider the idea of a youth café and it was agreed that Cllr Miss Davis would investigate this. Cllr Bowen requested that the clerk obtains copies of the Youth Café feasibility studies carried out for Melksham and Devizes and pass them to Cllr Davis.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.