

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Malmesbury on 18th October 2007 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Cox, Killane, Sanderson, Thomas, Woodcock

Also in attendance: Cllrs Blake and Snell, Mr P Kearney and Mr David Williams

Non attendance: Cllrs Miss E Davis, Goldstone

Public Participation: No members of the public were present

Apologies: Cllr Denley

Declarations of interest: None

23. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee held on the 30th August 2007 be received and adopted.

24. Reeds Farm Proposals

The progress so far was discussed and the following key points were made:

- NWDC have included the Reeds Farm project in their bid for Big Lottery funding and a final decision will be made by the lottery in January 2008.
- Playdale have indicated that they will need to reassess the proposed area as some levelling work may be required for a Multi Use Games Area.
- Cllr Sanderson and the town clerk are currently trying to establish how much finance will be available to Malmesbury through s.106 agreements. Some of this finance could be used to complete the project.

Concerns were raised with regard to the provision of equipment for younger children. The recent consultation with residents had indicated that equipment for younger children should also be provided. Cllr Sanderson pointed out that additional equipment could always be added at a later stage.

25. White Lion Park Recreation Ground – Cllr S Killane

Councillor Killane introduced Mr Paul Kearney Chair of the White Lion Recreation Association. Mr Kearney advised that the WLRA have now received £8000 from NWDC for the landscaping at the park and advised as follows:

- One of the provisos of the Lottery Grant was there is a pathway leading to the play equipment, to satisfy disability access requirements.
- The planned pathway will have pressure treated timber edging with a compacted hardcore and cement base.
- 10 semi mature trees currently between 25 and 30ft tall will be planted to provide shade and a wind break. It is planned that there will be a bench around the central tree when it has reached a more substantial size.

Concerns were raised about the future maintenance of the trees and it was agreed that Cllr Sanderson should bring the scheme to the attention of the maintenance team and planning department at NWDC.

Mr Kearney advised that the WLRA have received a Carnival award of £3691, which will be used to provide more equipment for older children, including a basket swing, a wooden log walk and log stepping stones. To complete this scheme £1809 of match funding will be required from Malmesbury Town Council. In addition the old concrete slabs next to the bin and the spoil from the preparation of the site, will be removed by a local contractor, at a cost of £300. Again the WLRA require that Malmesbury Town Council match fund this amount.

Resolved to provide the match funding.

Mr Kearney advised that a much larger hole had been cut in the fence by local youths, presumably so they could retrieve their football after it has been kicked over the fence. He advised that the WLRA would now consider a number of options to solve this problem including a gate, style or deer trap. Suitable options would be brought to the attention of this committee for approval.

Mr Kearney advised that the WLRA would be seeking additional funding from the lottery for a Multicourt at the White Lion Park Recreation area and he would complete the 200 word statement for consideration by the Big Lottery. It was agreed that the Town Council should give full support for this idea.

26. Youth Café – Cllr Miss E Davis

Some concerns were raised with regard to the non-attendance of Cllr Davis and whether this idea could be pursued successfully without her input. Cllr Cox advised that he was happy to assist Cllr Davis and would discuss the matter further with her.

Cllr Killane advised that he had spoken with Big Lottery staff with regard to their "Reaching Communities" grants and had been advised that a Youth Café would probably be a suitable scheme for funding. In Cllr Miss Davis's absence Cllr Cox agreed to make further enquiries regarding this.

27. Cloister Gardens/St Aldhelm's Mead Sub Committee Report – Cllrs Cox & Thomas

Cloister Gardens

Cllr Thomas advised that he had attended a meeting with Cllrs Bowen and Cox. Cllr Bowen suggested holding an event in 2010 to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Elmer's flight from the Abbey. Cllr Bowen advised that preparations for this should start early and would continue to pursue this idea. In addition consideration had been given to the purchase of temporary scaffolding to provide a stage for future events. However the issue of storage would have to be addressed first as the shed at the rear of the wall would be too small to provide suitable storage.

Cllr Cox advised that they would continue to pursue the idea of holding 2 or 3 low key acoustic music events next year, subject to the approval of nearby residents. Cllr Bowen had suggested holding these events on a Sunday to avoid weddings and suggested they take place in between church services.

The committee clerk advised that enquiries had been made with the Abbey regarding providing an electricity supply for these events and the churchwarden had asked that we write to request permission before holding any such event.

Cllr Blake raised concerns regarding the overgrown state of the shrubbery on the bank adjacent to the steps, to the rear of the cloister wall. Cllr Blake stated that he would be happy to advise the maintenance staff with regard to how this could be tidied. The committee clerk agreed to raise this matter with the Town Clerk as the maintenance staff would have to be removed from other duties to complete this work. The committee clerk also pointed out that contractors may have to complete this

work if the maintenance staff could not and advised that if necessary quotes would be sought.

Cllr Sanderson advised that approximately £8,500 was still “earmarked” for use in the Cloister Gardens but that some of this finance could be redirected elsewhere now that the project to enclose the Cloister Gardens with gates and railings had been put on hold. NWDC had said that the Reeds Farm project would be viewed more favourably if the Town Council could provide match funding and therefore suggested that funds were reallocated.

Proposal Cllr Sanderson proposed that £5,000 be reallocated from the Cloister Gardens to the Reeds Farm project, which would leave approximately £3,500 available for use in the Cloister Gardens. Seconded Cllrs Cox and Thomas.

St Aldhelm’s Mead

Cllr Cox advised that they were looking at the possibility of further planting in Cuckingstool Mead, possibly with wild flower seed and grasses for a maze.

Ideas and improvements for St Aldhelm’s Mead were discussed and the following key points were raised:

- The goal posts are not used as they are possibly too far apart, leaving a large wasted area.
- Consideration should be given to improvement of the toilets and opening them throughout the year.
- A scheme should be put together for the improvement of the whole area and incorporated into future budgets.

Resolved to hold a site meeting with Playdale who should be invited to make recommendations for the area. It was agreed that Cllr Killane will contact Playdale to organise a meeting. It was pointed out that any proposed scheme should follow the usual process of tendering whereby quotes are sought from several providers.

28. Newnton Grove – Cllr R Sanderson

Cllr Sanderson advised that he had recently attended a meeting with NWDC and Westlea Housing Association and updated members as follows:

- Westlea and NWDC were keen to hand over the ownership and management of the play area in accordance with the original plan.
- It was very unlikely that goal posts and a youth shelter would be passed by the planning department, but there should be no planning issues with the addition of other play equipment.
- Westlea had agreed to add a picnic bench, seats and a bin, as a gesture of goodwill. Originally it had been agreed that MTC would provide these items.
- There will be additional trees planted separating White Lion Park and the new houses.

Some discussion took place and concerns were raised with regard to the adoption of this play area in its current state.

Resolved that Cllr Sanderson will correspond with NWDC and Westlea outlining MTC’s requirements, which should be met before consideration will be given to the adoption of the play area. These requirements should include:

- All ROSPA recommendations being carried out.
- Consideration should be given to providing MTC with extra funding and a maintenance budget.
- All equipment warranties should be made available and confirmed as satisfactory.

29. Committee Clerk's report

The committee clerk distributed a written report (copy attached) and with reference to the report the following key points were raised:

- There are insufficient dog bins.
- A snooker club could provide young people with a useful and fun way to spend their time.

It was agreed that Cllr Sanderson will contact NWDC with regard to the provision of extra dog bins. Cllr Blake agreed to investigate the snooker club idea and appropriate lottery funding.

The Committee Clerk advised that the smashed toilet bowl has now been repaired and work would commence shortly on the vandalised broken door to the gents toilet.

30. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and can be inspected in the Council Offices:

- ROSPA report

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.