

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Malmesbury on 10th January 2008 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Cox, Killane and Sanderson

Also in attendance: Cllr Blake

Non attendance: Cllr Miss E Davis

Public Participation: No members of the public were present

Apologies: Cllrs Denley, Goldstone, Thomas & Woodcock

Declarations of interest: none

38. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee held on the 27th November 2007 be received and adopted.

39. Cloister Gardens/St Aldhelm's Mead Sub Committee Report

Cllr Cox advised that he had little to report since the last meeting, as the sub committee members had not met. However he advised that concerns had been raised about the public toilets at St Aldhelm's Mead not being open all year round. Some discussion took place regarding the isolated location of the toilets and potential additional cost to the council if they were opened during winter. It was agreed that the committee clerk would research the cost of installing a more "vandal proof" facility for consideration at the next meeting.

The committee clerk advised members that clearing work on the bank to the rear of the Cloister Gardens will start during next week, weather permitting. A chipping and shredding machine will be hired which will allow much of the chipped undergrowth to be left on site. It was agreed that a further assessment of the bank will take place after this initial clearing work has taken place.

40. White Lion Park Recreation Ground

Cllr Killane updated members as follows:

- The trees should be planted within one month and will be maintained for up to one year by the contractor.
- A local resident and building contractor will be removing the soil pile from the site as soon as the weather allows. He will also fix the hole to the fence.
- Work on the footpath should commence during March and the additional play equipment will be installed soon after.

Cllr Sanderson advised that he visited the play area with grandchildren recently and received very positive comments from local residents.

41. Reeds Farm

Cllr Sanderson advised that NWDC have confirmed that £25,000 will be available to Malmesbury Town Council for the Reeds Farm project.

Cllr Killane raised concerns with the idea of installing a MUGA, which he felt may not fulfil the aspirations of all residents on Reeds Farm and furthermore it is a very expensive option. It was agreed that the committee clerk will ask NWDC how much flexibility there is with the chosen equipment and whether MTC could deviate in any way from the original plan.

Cllr Killane stated that it was very important that further consultation takes place with the local community through public meetings and that every effort should be made to involve the community.

Cllr Blake stressed that input from the Reeds Farm Action for Children group was essential and clarification regarding the plans for the money raised by this group established.

It was agreed that at the next meeting on the 21st February, consideration should be given to setting a date for a public meeting, to ensure that the local community is involved with the project.

42. Youth Café

The Committee Clerk reported that a letter dated the 30th November was sent to Cllr Miss Davis asking whether she wished to continue with this project, but that no response has been received to date.

It was agreed that Cllrs Killane, Sanderson and Cox will carry this project forward and meet to discuss making a lottery application to fund a Youth Café for the Town Hall.

43. Committee Clerk's Report

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

- Further complaints about the lack of maintenance and defects with the equipment on the Newton Grove play area have been raised by local residents. NWDC have advised that the manufacturers of the equipment will be on site next week to resolve any equipment defects.
- Cllr Sanderson and the Town Clerk will be meeting Westlea Housing Association on the 21st January to discuss issues with the Newton Grove play area.

44. Correspondence

The following letters were received and can be inspected in the Council Offices:

- Copy letter dated 31st December 2007 from Mr D Tilney to Mr M Hasted at NWDC, raising concerns with the equipment at Newton Grove and the lack of ongoing maintenance.
- Letter from Mr A Barnard requesting that Malmesbury Town Council give consideration to a skateboard park in Malmesbury.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.