

## MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee Meeting held at Malmesbury Fire Station on Thursday 3 April 2008 at 7pm.

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**Present:** Councillors, S Cox, S Killane, R Sanderson, M Thomas & A Woodcock

**In Attendance:** Mrs Claire Edmeston, Chair of Action for Children in Reeds Farm

**Absent:** Cllrs B Denley, P Goldstone

1. **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008, be received and adopted.

2. **Declarations of Interest**  
None

3. **Reeds Farm Proposals**

Cllr Sanderson updated members as follows:

- A letter has now been received from NWDC in response to Malmesbury Town Council's request to use £5000 of the total budget of £65,000 for maintenance of the site. NWDC have pointed out that this would conflict with the Executive Committee's resolution, which stated that Malmesbury Town Council must take responsibility for maintenance. However to overcome this NWDC propose that the first 12 months maintenance is included in the tender so that there would be no financial commitment from the District or Town Council. Once the 12 months expires, responsibility will transfer to the town council allowing time to budget for this additional expense.
- As pointed out by NWDC, any transfer of land from Persimmon Homes would come with a commuted payment for maintenance.
- The next step will be to hold a public meeting.
- Following a recent press article a letter has been received from a very concerned local resident regarding the inclusion of a youth shelter at the site. This had never been part of the Town Council's intention and a reply will be sent accordingly.

Cllr Sanderson introduced Mrs Edmeston and invited her to present the ideas and plans of the Action for Children in Reeds Farm Group. Mrs Edmeston made the following points:

- Following the recent press article there was some confusion within the community about how the Council intended to use the space. It was therefore very important that the facts were clearly communicated to the public.
- It was felt that their group should work in partnership with the Town Council to achieve the wishes of the residents.
- The group was set up originally to raise funds to provide toddler equipment and this still remains one of their primary goals.
- Members of the community had expressed concerns to their group about providing equipment for older children and teenagers and their members were conscious of the close proximity of bungalows to the site, predominantly occupied by elderly residents.

It was agreed that a public meeting should now take place and the following was agreed:

- Notice of the meeting will be communicated via a mailshot to householders. Mrs Edmeston will meet with the committee clerk to draft the letter. The Action For Children in Reeds Farm logo should be included on the letter.
- The meeting will take place at Malmesbury CE Primary School during the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> April. The committee clerk will arrange the date and time.
- The meeting should commence with a presentation by Cllr Sanderson and Mrs Edmeston and possibly a member of the White Lion Recreation Association, where the facts and aspirations of both groups will be communicated effectively. The constraints within which the site can be developed must also be made very clear.
- The presentation will be followed by refreshments where residents will be given the opportunity to speak informally to Councillors, members of the Reeds Farm group and possibly the White Lion Recreation Association and share ideas.
- The Reeds Farm group will take the opportunity during the meeting to recruit new members and illicit support from the community. Hopefully a representative from each road on Reeds Farm will be recruited.
- Following this meeting the Reeds Farm group will meet during the week commencing the 5<sup>th</sup> May, to draft a proposed layout for the site.
- During June the group will visit other playground sites, peruse catalogues and take advice from equipment providers and then choose suitable equipment.
- A proposed scheme will then be submitted by the group during July, which in turn will be submitted to Malmesbury Town Council and NWDC for approval. Thereafter the tendering process can begin.
- The above process with updates and information should be communicated via the Town Council's web site.

#### 4. **Newnton Grove**

Cllr Sanderson advised that following Malmesbury Town Council's resolution not to enter into any further discussions about the transfer of ownership of the site, a letter had been received from NWDC. This stated that a site meeting had taken place between Monster Play and Westlea Housing, but that in order to resolve the situation a separate meeting with the landscape contractor would be needed. It was pointed out that most problems will be sorted out, but not necessarily to the satisfaction of Malmesbury Town Council. Therefore the site may have to remain with the district.

Some discussion took place regarding the responsibility of Councillors to the community regardless of who owned the site. Cllr Killane proposed:

**Proposal** Subject to approval by the Town Clerk the committee clerk will ensure that a letter is sent to Westlea Housing Association expressing the dissatisfaction with the considerable delay in resolving the safety issues and that MTC proposes to install the missing fence and purchase a suitable lock for the maintenance gate and forward the invoice for them for settlement. Seconded Cllr Sanderson

#### 5. **Cloister Gardens/St Aldhelm's Mead Sub Committee Report**

Cllr Cox advised that he had spoken with Mrs Miranda Gilmour at NWDC with regard to the provision of additional equipment at St Aldhelm's Mead. She advised that an application to the Community Award programme should be made. Funding awards up to £2500 will not have to be match funded and for anything over that amount no more than 60% of the total project amount will be awarded. All applications must be made before the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

It was agreed that the Committee Clerk will arrange a site meeting with a reputable play equipment company and Cllrs Cox and Thomas to discuss options.

## **6. White Lion Park**

Cllr Killane advised that the rest of the play equipment had now been installed. Many children were delighted to see an additional basket swing. The path leading to the equipment has also been completed. Many more residents were now using this facility. Quotes were still awaited for a stile to be placed in the far fence (where children required access to retrieve footballs) and for benches and wooden mushrooms/seats. It is proposed that the White Lion Recreation Association will hold an annual community event at the park, the details of which are still to be formulated.

## **7. Cloister Gardens Bank**

The contents of report no. 1 was duly considered and it was resolved to instruct contractor B to go ahead with the work, subject to an initial inspection for nesting birds.

## **8. Committee Clerk's Report on Play areas and Open Spaces.**

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **9. Correspondence**

None received

The meeting closed at 8:40pm