

MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee Meeting held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs, W Blake, S Cox, S Killane, J Lawton, M Thomas, C Vernon

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

Absent: Cllr Mrs A Davis

10. Apologies Cllrs Denley and Sanderson

11. Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee meetings, held on 3rd April and 27th May 2008, be received and adopted.

12. Declarations of Interest None

13. Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Killane called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chair of the Leisure and Youth Committee for 2008/9.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Councillor Cox be elected Vice Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Civic Year.

14. Reeds Farm Proposals

Cllr Killane introduced Mrs Claire Edmeston who updated members as follows:

- Following the public meeting on the 7th May, Action for Children on Reeds Farm have met a further 3 times and produced a design brief for the site.
- In accordance with an undertaking they gave at the public meeting, residents have been kept informed and the group has succeeded in bringing people with opposing views together. Their group has swollen to 20 members.
- A play company has been asked to produce scale drawings of the area for inclusion in the final plan.
- The group hope to have a final design brief and layout plan ready for submission to Malmesbury Town Council and North Wiltshire District Council by the end of July. Their plans will not specify precisely what equipment they would like, just what play elements they would like the chosen equipment to provide.
- Their plans do include fencing and they would require a Dog Exclusion Order to form part of the overall plan.
- A further meeting will take place on the 9th July and thereafter the scale drawings and design brief will be sent for approval to Mike Hasted at NWDC. All those residents who have responded to previous surveys will receive a copy of this document.

Cllr Blake expressed concerns about the budget and whether their aspirations match the budget for the scheme. Mrs Edmeston confirmed that they are confident their plans will not be unrealistic and confirmed they have sought clarification on this point from one play company, the White Lion Recreation Association and NWDC.

Mrs Edmeston highlighted a number of outstanding issues, including the drainage of the site, planning requirements and transfer of ownership of the land.

The committee clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Persimmon Homes requesting details of any drainage system previously installed, but confirmed that no formal reply had been received. In addition a letter had been sent to the planning department at NWDC, asking whether the land in question had been designated as "LEAP" land.

Action Committee Clerk to write to Persimmon again seeking clarification about drainage. Committee Clerk to write to the legal department at NWDC requesting details of transfer of ownership.

Action Mrs Edmeston to provide a short paragraph outlining progress, for inclusion in the newsletter.

15. Making Malmesbury a sustainable community

Cllr Vernon advised that there is an increased demand for allotments in Malmesbury and that the council has a duty to consider any requests. A number of potential sites were discussed including Cuckingstool Mead and it was agreed that this committee will further investigate suitable sites, whilst involving the community as much as possible. It was agreed that a paragraph requesting feedback will go into the autumn newsletter.

16. Newnton Grove

The committee clerk updated members as follows:

- A further meeting took place on the 13th June 2008 between Westlea Housing Association, Monster Play, Mike Hasted of NWDC and Cllrs Cinnamon and Sanderson.
- Most of the highlighted problems have now been rectified and the new seat has been installed. A bin and another bench are still to be installed by NWDC. Although a pole for a sign has been put in place the sign for it has not yet been attached.
- It was agreed that subject to all of the repair work being carried out, the District Council will take responsibility for the play area. NWDC also agreed to take on the future maintenance.
- In addition ground levelling, reseeding or turfing will be carried out in the autumn by Westlea.

17. Cloister Gardens Carnival Events

The Committee Clerk advised that a request had been received from Carnival to hold two events in the Cloister Gardens. The Carnival have already notified Abbey House Gardens who have no objections to the events taking place.

Action Committee Clerk to write to the Carnival Committee confirming that the events can go ahead.

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

Cllr Thomas advised that he and Cllr Cox have received quotations for 3 different schemes to enhance St Aldhelm's Mead. Cllr Cox advised one scheme included a fully fenced 6 a side football area. This would hopefully solve the problem of footballs being kicked into the river.

Cllr Lawton advised that such a scheme may not be possible on a flood plain and might not meet planning approval. He suggested that a mobile screen/graffiti wall could provide a solution.

Action Cllrs Cox and Thomas to investigate possible sources of funding for the suggestions.

19. White Lion Park

Cllr Killane advised that more benches and seating will be installed before the end of July. Two of the new trees have died, however the tree company have agreed to replace them. Fundraising is continuing through Carnival and the WLRA hope to install pull up bars/rings.

20. Activity Zone

Cllr Killane advised that he had attended a recent focus group meeting at the Activity Zone. The management group are trying to sort out maintenance issues including replacing the air conditioning system in the gym. In addition members of staff have received further customer services training.

Cllr Blake suggested that facilities could be improved if snooker was available to play. Cllr Killane advised that he will put this suggestion to them at the next meeting.

Some discussion took place regarding how Malmesbury Town Council could help them improve their marketing and it was agreed that the committee clerk will write inviting them to attend a meeting of this committee.

21. Committee Clerk's Report on Play areas and Open Spaces.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

22. Correspondence

- Email request from Malmesbury Monks Flyball Team, to hold dog team events on land owned by Malmesbury Town Council.
- Letter from Mr Edward Palmer regarding a proposed cycle route from Malmesbury to Cowbridge

The meeting closed at 8:35pm