

MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee Meeting held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 4 September 2008 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs S Cox, S Killane, J Lawton, M Thomas, A Woodcock

In Attendance: 2 local Oxford Street residents

Public Participation

The residents expressed concerns regarding the anti social behaviour in and around the Guildhall and Borough Arms public houses on Oxford Street. The drunken and threatening behaviour was particularly noticeable following the Carnival procession on Saturday. The problem of drunken and anti social behaviour had become worse since the change in licensing hours whereby landlords could serve customers up to the early hours of the morning. They requested the help and support of Malmesbury Town Council to stamp out this sort of behaviour and to ensure that landlords were obliged to behave responsibly when serving customers.

Some discussion followed and it was agreed that as this matter was of such a serious nature, it would be raised by members of this committee at the next full town council meeting on the 16th September. It was agreed that full support should be given to the police in the light of recent events to put pressure on the licensing authority to re-examine this issue.

26. Apologies Cllrs Dove and Sanderson

27. Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee meetings, held on 3rd July and 22nd July 2008, be received and adopted.

28. Declarations of Interest None

29. Reeds Farm – Update

The committee clerk advised that Mike Hasted of North Wiltshire District Council had not been able to make as much progress as he would have liked, however he would be inviting representatives of Malmesbury Town Council and the Chair of Action for Children on Reeds Farm to attend a meeting during the next two weeks to discuss the way forward.

30. NWDC Grant Application – All inclusive play equipment

The committee clerk advised that an invitation to apply for a grant for “all inclusive” play equipment had been received by NWDC. The application has to be submitted by the 15th of September and three play equipment providers have been asked to supply a range of options meeting the criteria. Two have submitted their recommendations and the third should arrive next week.

Some discussion took place and it was agreed that the sub-committee already tasked with enhancing St Aldhelm’s Mead, should select the equipment suitable for inclusion in the grant application. Some preference was expressed for a roundabout which it was felt would complement the play equipment already at St Aldhelm’s Mead.

31. Newnton Grove - Update

The Committee Clerk advised that most of the defects with the equipment had now been fixed, however the concrete edging to the front of the bench was still missing.

Cllr Killane advised that there was insufficient signage, namely the exclusion of dogs from the play area. In addition there were still road safety issues to be resolved. The yellow pedestrian gate was of particular concern in that it was often obscured by parked vehicles. Double yellow lines along this stretch of road would prevent parking and ensure children's safety.

The committee clerk advised that a meeting would be taking place during the next two weeks with a representative from the Malmesbury Town Council Planning and Environment Committee, Councillor John Thomson and WCC Highways. Cllr Killane requested that the safety issue regarding the pedestrian gate should be raised at this meeting.

Some discussion took place and it was agreed that Malmesbury Town Council will not consider ownership and maintenance until such time that all safety issues, equipment defects and suitable signage have been sorted out.

Action Committee Clerk to write as an "interested party" to Westlea Housing Association requesting sight of any ROSPA/Health and Safety inspection that has been carried out in recent months.

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

Cllr Cox distributed copies of a written quotation received from a play equipment provider and advised that two schemes had been put together for playground equipment and two for multi use games areas.

Some discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The multi use games area schemes would probably not be suitable for a flood plain area and alternatives should be sought.
- The proposed schemes can now be used to seek funding.

Action Cllr Killane to investigate suitable sources of funding and provide details to Cllrs Cox and Killane.

Action Committee Clerk to investigate grants available from the Gannett Foundation.

Cllr Cox advised that he was aware of a growing desire by residents for allotments in the town and believed that Cuckingstool Mead may provide a suitable site.

Action Committee Clerk to investigate whether any restrictions exist regarding the use of Cuckingstool Mead and to check how many plots the space could accommodate.

33. Committee Clerk's Report on play areas and open spaces

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

Cllr Cox expressed concerns regarding the Malmesbury Youth Centre and skate park which appeared to have reduced its opening hours.

Action Committee Clerk to write to Wiltshire County Council requesting details of current opening hours, the feedback from the skate park trial and overall future plans for the centre.

34. Correspondence

The following letters of correspondence have been received and can be inspected in the Council Offices:

- Copy letter received from Mrs Fabray a local resident living on Reeds Farm expressing concerns about the proposal for a play area at Reeds Farm.
- Copy letter received from Mr D Tilney and addressed to Westlea Housing Association expressing concerns about the condition of the Newton Grove play area.

Action Committee clerk to write to Mr Tilney expressing thanks for his community spirit and neighbourly concern.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm