

MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee Meeting held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 8 January 2009 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Carnegie, S Cox, P Dove, S Killane, J Lawton, A Stamp

In Attendance: Mr T Palmer, Mrs C Edmeston, Cllr Mrs C Doody

40. Apologies Cllr Sanderson

41. Resolved that the Extraordinary Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee meeting, held on the 20th November, be received and adopted.

42. Declarations of Interest None

43. Reeds Farm

Mrs Claire Edmeston, Chair of Action for Children on Reeds Farm, informed the committee that their group had looked at 5 designs from play companies that had now been returned to North Wiltshire District Council in accordance with the tender process. Their preferred choice was from Playdale as it matched the aspirations of local residents. Mrs Edmeston outlined the reasons for their choice:

- The design included opportunities for climbing, swinging, rocking, group play and for less able children.
- The equipment is mostly wooden, is more aesthetically pleasing and non urban.
- The chosen safagrass safety surfacing should not exacerbate the drainage issue, as it allows for rain to soak away. The design does not include any hard surfacing.
- The separate zones and equipment is suitable for different age ranges and should address any anti social behaviour and vandalism concerns. As equipment is provided for older children this should result in the younger children's equipment less likely to be vandalised.
- There is no tall equipment which would impact residents living adjacent to the site.
- The play area will be fenced in to prevent dogs from gaining access, but this should not hinder dog walkers in the area.

Cllr Killane outlined his proposals for the maintenance and financing of the project as follows:

- The overall budget is £65000 which includes Lottery funding, Town Council funding (£5000) and funding from NWDC.
- £500 of the overall project budget should be put aside for seating for the park.
- The Town Council should fund and arrange for a Dog Exclusion Order for the completed play area which should cost in the region of £700.
- £500 of the overall project budget should be set aside to cover vandalism repairs for the first year.
- The play equipment will be guaranteed by Playdale against installation or manufacturing faults for 12 months.
- The Town Council maintenance team will include this play area in their program of weekly health and safety checks and general maintenance.
- The completed installation should have a full ROSPA inspection, as soon as possible after installation. At least half of the equipment and installation payments would be withheld until the Town Council are satisfied with the installation. This would include a satisfactory ROSPA inspection and site visit by representatives of the Town Council.

- The project budget will include all play equipment, all fences, all gates and bins.
- If agreed by the Leisure and Youth Committee, the final design will be submitted to full council for approval.
- NWDC will be responsible for the payment and installation of the equipment. Coordinated by Mr Mike Hasted.
- The proposed latest date for completion of installation will be 31st of March 2009. If possible this will include the seating and the Dog Exclusion Order.

Mrs Edmeston pointed out that the residents group holds £1600 which they hope to use for an additional pathway or extra trim trail equipment.

Some discussion took place regarding the proposed lease with Persimmon and concerns were raised about possible delays in agreeing the terms of the lease. Cllr Killane pointed out that NWDC will not proceed with placing an order for equipment until they are satisfied that the lease has been agreed. RESOLVED that the Playdale scheme is chosen and the recommendations made by Cllr Killane are accepted and that the chosen scheme and these recommendations are put forward to full council for agreement.

Cllr Mrs Doody thanked Mrs Claire Edmeston and her committee on behalf of Malmesbury Town Council for all their hard work during the past couple of years.

44. Sustrans Cycling/Footpath Project

Mr Ted Palmer explained that he represented the Malmesbury Area Pathwatch organisation, who together with Sustrans, the parish of Malmesbury St Paul's Without and NWDC hoped to create a cycleway along the disused Malmesbury branch railway. Mr Palmer explained that as part of the negotiations with the Cowbridge site developers, a Section 106 agreement was reached under which the Minton Group paid NWDC £25,000 as a contribution to Sustrans for the construction of this cycle route. This scheme has to be completed within 5 years. A Mr Andrew Millington has now been appointed by Sustrans to manage the project which will start with negotiations with the relevant land owners. Mr Palmer pointed out that the Pathwatch organisation have requested that the £25,000 is now handed over from NWDC to Sustrans, in view of the imminent change to unitary status.

RESOLVED that support is given to this scheme where possible.

Mr Palmer also advised that Pathwatch were looking into improving the right of way between White Lion Park and the Red Bull through Brokenborough, where youngsters travel to the football club. Cllr Killane agreed that this would benefit the community.

45. Malmesbury YMCA Project

Cllr Killane informed the committee that he and Cllrs Cox, Doody and Vernon had an informal meeting with Mr Mike Fairbeard, the Chief Executive of Bath YMCA, on Friday the 21st of November and it was agreed that the Leisure and Youth Committee of Malmesbury Town Council is best placed to coordinate activities that will decide how the money should be spent. Cllr Killane referred to a brief prepared by Mike Fairbeard, already circulated to members, and explained that the sum is likely to be in the region of £90,000.

Some discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The finance should perhaps be spent within the Town Hall to provide a youth cafe.
- The Moravian Church may be available for a youth facility, which could provide an alternative to pubs.

- A business incubator should be considered, which would help young people set up in business.
- A facility that is not as structured as the Malmesbury Youth Centre should be provided for youngsters.

Cllr Killane recommended that committee members should start to gather information so that 2 or 3 good ideas can be presented to the YMCA for approval. It was agreed that members of the community should be involved in this process including youngsters, Mrs Margaret Lamb (an experienced youth worker), the local scouts leader and Malmesbury Youth Centre. RESOLVED a public meeting should be held inviting the community to attend and discuss the options available. Cllr Killane will speak to Mr Fairbeard to establish a suitable time and date for the meeting which will be held at Malmesbury Town Hall. When a date is agreed, the committee clerk will write to appropriate members of the community inviting them to attend an "information gathering" meeting.

46. Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr Killane referred to Report 4 and updated committee members. The committee clerk advised that the 'Walk to Dinner' organisation had dismissed the idea of using Cuckingstool Mead for allotments in view of flooding and that they were investigating the idea of a community orchard instead. RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and to wait for further advice from the Walk to Dinner organisation regarding a community orchard. The committee clerk will complete the application for Flood Defence Consent for submission to the Environment Agency if the Walk to Dinner group decide that a community orchard would be suitable for Cuckingstool Mead.

47. Cloister Gardens Music Events

The committee clerk referred to a letter from the owners of Abbey House Gardens. The letter had been received in reply to a letter sent by the committee clerk advising that the Carnival Committee had requested to use the Cloister Gardens for music events during 2009. The committee clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the Carnival Committee requesting more information about the type of events planned before formal permission is granted.

RESOLVED to consider the matter further as and when a reply is received from the Carnival Committee detailing their plans.

48. St Aldhelm's Mead New Equipment/Toilets

The committee clerk advised that the two new pieces of all inclusive play equipment had now been installed at St Aldhelm's Mead. RESOLVED committee clerk will arrange for photos and appropriate publicity will be sent to the local press.

The committee clerk advised that a further application for a match funded grant had been applied for from NWDC to provide additional seating and fencing for the play area. A decision regarding the grant will be made by NWDC on the 21st January.

The committee clerk advised that further to November's meeting, enquiries had been made with a local plumber who had confirmed that it would be extremely difficult to lag the pipes leading to the toilet block as the length of pipe involved was so long. Therefore to prevent freezing pipes the water supply would still have to be cut off during winter months. RESOLVED the committee clerk will produce temporary signage for display on the toilet block advising why the toilets remain closed during winter.

49. Newton Grove Play Area

Cllr Killane advised that until all problems with the play area, including the temporary removal of the swings and various trip hazards, had been sorted out the committee should not consider adopting this play area.

50. White Lion Park Play Area

Cllr Killane advised that the White Lion Recreation Association had applied to NWDC for match funding for extra play equipment. The group still holds approximately £3000 but would hope to have £6000 to spend if the grant is agreed. A decision regarding the grant will be made on the 21st January. The group are keen that all monies should be spent now in accordance with the wishes of the community rather than holding onto any balance.

51. Correspondence

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

- Copy letter dated 3rd December 2008 received from Mrs B Haworth-Pollard stating that they would be willing to agree to using the Cloister Gardens for music events and allowing access down their driveway, providing a number of conditions were met.
- Copy letter dated from 3rd December 2008 received from Mrs J Tilley NWDC enclosing a copy letter sent to Persimmon Homes proposing a number of terms and conditions for inclusion in a lease for land at Reeds Farm to be used for a play area.
- Copy letter dated 17th December 2008 received from Mr C Davey asking that MTC pencil in an number of dates for the use of St Aldhelm's Mead.
Action Committee clerk to write to Mr Davey advising that before any decision is made regarding the use of St Aldhelm's more information will be required for the Carnival ie whether they require vehicular access through the Memorial Gates.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm