

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Large Hall of the Town Hall, Calne on Monday 6 March 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M J Baggs - **Chair**
Councillor Mrs L E Hammond – **Vice Chair**
Councillor D A Bland
Councillor Mrs E M Bland
Councillor L F Jones
Councillor A J Trotman

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P Dolman

OFFICERS: Mrs A Kingdon – Town Clerk
Mrs A Cawkwell – Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

47/05 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs C J Bowyer, The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor C J Viner, Councillor Mrs C O’Gorman and Councillor R J Stigwood.

48/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49/05 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 9 January 2006, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50/05 EARMARKED RESERVES

The earmarked reserves, which are attached to and form part of these Minutes, were noted by members

At 6.03 pm Councillor Trotman joined the meeting.

51/05 ALLOTMENT RENT

The Deputy Town Clerk’s report, which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes, was discussed by members and the following points were raised:

- There was a considerable cost to the community for providing these allotments, however, it was a statutory requirement.
- A policy was needed for moving forward.
- Admin costs were not included in the figures in the report.
- There was a need to appraise the charges and rents would withstand an increase due to the long waiting list.
- It was noted that the size of the allotments was a little lower than others.
- It was pointed out that a separate charge is made for sheds/lockups on our allotments which increases the rent paid for a plot. However, we maintain these and it provides uniformity to the site.
- Beversbrook have had a few thefts and there has been a knock on effect with people claiming on insurances and premiums going up as a result of this.
- Rents are very cheap in relation to the amount of maintenance involved with planting and grasscutting.
- Nobody likes a rise in anything and there should be an increase in allotment rents.
- These charges were approved 6 years ago by previous councillors and fixed for five years, however, this has now elapsed and a review of charges is required.
- The turnover for allotments is quite high, a month's notice is required and then another month to terminate. Some find the plots larger than they thought and are unable to maintain them fully.
- When an allotment is given up, we arrange for any growth to be cut down ready for the next tenant.
- There could be different rent levels, one for existing allotment holders and one for new allotment holders.
- The rents should be reviewed on an annual basis.
- A 10% rent increase was suggested with an increase by the rate of inflation every September thereafter.

It was proposed by Councillor L F Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs L E Hammond and

RESOLVED to increase the large Beversbrook allotments to £12.00, the standard Beversbrook Plots to £6.00 and the Newcroft allotments to £11.00 to bring the rents in line with inflation from the past 5 years.

It was proposed by Councillor L F Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs L E Hammond and

RESOLVED to increase allotment rents by the rate of inflation every September.

52/05 BURIAL CHARGES

The Deputy Town Clerk's report, which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes, was discussed by members and the Town Clerk pointed out that the proposed charges for new grave for one burial and new grave for two burials were the wrong way around.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs L E Hammond, seconded by Councillor L F Jones and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the proposed charges as stated, after the above amendment, and that these charges be reviewed on an annual basis by this Committee.

53/05 CASTLEFIELDS CANAL AND RIVER PARK ASSOCIATION

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2006 were noted.

54/05 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.