

Uppingham Town Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee – Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 6.00pm

Present. Mike Fish (Chairman), Pete Rees, Tom Johnson, Barry Hobbs, Ron Simpson, Liz Clarke.

2 members of the public were present.

Sharon W Coe – Town Clerk, and Cynthia Ondeng Admin Assistant were also in attendance.

1. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr Fish welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that this meeting of the amenities committee was the first since the election of the new council.

2. Apologies for Absence, Declaration of Members' Interests and Requests for Dispensation:

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held 12th April 2023.

Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Fish, and **resolved unanimously** that these be approved.

4. An opportunity for the public to speak.

A member of the public reiterated the offer of help from the Tod's Piece Allotment Society to help in any way that they can to ease the burden of administration regarding the site. The Clerk thanked them for this offer.

A member of the public requested additional emptying of the bins of Tod's Piece especially through the summer month, as they were quite often overflowing. The Clerk informed the meeting that there had never been a formal contract with BIFFA, but she had a meeting on the 28th June to discuss a contract with BIFFA and she would add this to her agenda. The Sun Dial was mentioned, and the quote had still not been received by the second stonemason. Cllr Johnson very kindly offered to chase this.

5. To consider the following

a) Christmas Lights.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Christmas Lights are looking tired, and that the Council have been saving for replacement lights. Before her illness she had contacted a supplier, but this had not progressed. A discussion took place about possibilities and what the Council would wish to see. The Clerk/Admin asst will progress this and bring ideas back to the committee with full costings. The Clerk would like to go with LED lights as this would be better for the environment and more cost effective regarding energy costs.

b) Winter Salt Bin on the corner of Queens Road/Leicester Road.

The Clerk advised that UTC would have to buy the bin but then RCC would fill them and charge us for this. These are not felt to be particularly robust. The committee would like

the Clerk to see if there are further options available that would be more in keeping with the heritage feel . Would RCC council still fill them if a different design was purchased? This will be investigated, progressed and brought back to the committee for consideration.

c) Junior Football posts for Tod's Piece

The Chair had spoken to the young people who had requested a junior net so that they could play football. Following discussions regarding possible siting, safety and options available, the Clerk will investigate various options, one of which being a kick wall. A full risk assessment would have to be completed and all findings with costings will be brought back to this committee for further discussion. The football club will also be consulted.

Proposed, seconded and **unanimously resolved.**

d) Allotments – consideration the setting up of an inspection committee and associated policy updates.

The Clerk outlined the position that the allotments were administratively in a good position, following some intensive work. She would now like to set up an inspection committee for the allotments which would possibly do a monthly inspection between April and September to keep on top of issues arising. Then a yearly inspection. Strengthening of the out-of-date allotment rules and a rewrite of the policies to plot holders. If a tenant fails to keep to the new rules, then the Clerk will issue the appropriate notices. The Clerk had informally approached the LR allotments, and they would be happy to be a part and the offer of help had also been offered by TP allotments.

Cllr Fish and Rees volunteered to be the council representatives. The Clerk will look for best practice and bring a report back to this committee, together with suggested areas of responsibility and accountability which could then be incorporated into the standing orders which are currently being revised.

Proposed by Cllr Fish, seconded by Cllr Rees. **Resolved unanimously.**

There had been some more ASB on the allotments. A question was asked regarding the CCTV, the committee felt that we needed to understand why our local police officers couldn't access the CCTV for Tod's Piece and this was only able to be viewed in Melton. The Clerk informed the meeting that Hugh Crouch RCC's Community Safety Manager was in the TH tomorrow looking at the CTTV with an engineer due to some internal faults.

A further proposal was made that we invite RCC's Community Safety Manager (Hugh Crouch) to a meeting to discuss the fact that CCTV was not meeting its intended purpose (to protect our asset Tod's Piece). The Clerk would also invite Uppingham's new Police Officer to attend a future council meeting.

e) Fencing along the London Road Cemetery.

The Clerk had a verbal quote for metal bow topped fencing for approximately £10,000. The committee explored various options including wooden and composite fencing, metal estate fencing (like post and rail) was also discussed. The Clerk will obtain written quotations for all options, and these will be brought back to this committee for further consideration.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting at 6.45pm.