

THAME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee held on 3 December 2013 at 6.30pm in the Upper Chamber, Thame Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs N Champken-Woods, N Dixon (Chairman), M Dyer, A Gunn, P Lambert (Town Mayor), D Laver, J Matelot Green (Deputy Mayor) and M Stiles (Vice Chairman).

Non-Voting

V Humphries

Officers

H Stewart, Town Clerk

C Pinnells, Community Services Manager

A Oughton, Committee Services Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bretherton (Unwell), Dite (Family) and Emery (Holiday).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Participation

There were no applications to address the Committee.

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Stiles entered the meeting.

5 Budget Summary

Members noted the summary up to 30 October 2013 and raised no questions. A full set of the accounts were available for inspection.

6 Reports from Outside Bodies

- a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee - Cllr Stiles reported that the AGM had taken place in October. Concern was raised regarding the increase in dog fouling and the disturbance of the wildlife in the Nature Reserve as a result of dogs being exercised off the lead. Cllr Laver reported that Radio Oxford had recently visited the Reserve which had resulted in some excellent publicity. Plans were being formulated for an exhibition in the Museum towards the end of 2014.

Cllr Laver entered the meeting during this item.

- b) Leisure Centre Management Committee – Cllr Stiles reported that the last management meeting was well attended. Richard Bolton had been appointed Centre

Manager and there had been a noticeable improvement. The Festival of Christmas Music was due to take place on Wednesday 4 December 2013.

- c) Carnival Committee – Cllr Matelot Green reported that plans were well underway for events next year. Kubota had offered the use of three lorries for floats in the parade. The next committee meeting was scheduled for January 2014.
- d) Football Partnership – Cllr Dyer reported that the partnership continued to increase efficiency and was predicted to make a small surplus at the year end. Significant savings had been achieved by using volunteer staff on match days. Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) status was being revisited now that certain criteria had been lifted which had precluded the Football Partnership from applying in the past. The next Stake Holder meeting was scheduled for 7 December 2013 at 7pm – Councillors were welcome to attend.
- e) Twinning Association – Cllr Humphries reported that a small group from the association had recently returned from Montesson where they had a stall at the Christmas Market. A group from Montesson would attend the Thame Dickensian Christmas evening on 6 December 2013 followed by the twinning association's Christmas celebration in the Upper Chamber.
- f) Cricket Club – The Town Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place with the redevelopment team who were looking to progress a planning application. Once this had been approved grant funding could be sought. The group intended to present their plans to the Council before the submitting the planning application.
- g) Chinnor RFC – Cllr Gunn reported that the Club continued to do well. A planning application to develop the club house had been submitted and the aim was to have the work completed in time for the Rugby World Cup being staged in the UK in 2015.

7 Community Events

Members were asked to consider the level of support the Council gave to community events in terms of public liability insurance, staff hours, equipment and other assistance including grant funding.

The commitment was quite substantial but resources were limited. Members were being asked to support the approach of enabling and facilitating groups to develop and become independent within a 3 to 4 years period and not for the Council to take ownership of such.

The Chairman of Music in The Park was concerned that his committee would not be able to take ownership of their event by next year if the 3 to 4 year time period was applied. The 3 to 4 year support timeframe should be sufficient to support new ventures providing this was explained at the beginning and a committee made aware of what was expected of them. This was a new approach towards Music in the Park so it was agreed that 2015 would be a more appropriate timeframe by which the committee would become independent.

RESOLVED that:

i) The level of support for community groups as detailed in Option 3 be approved.

ii) The Carnival and Music in the Park committees be assisted to achieve

independence by the end of 2015.

iii) Efforts be made to establish a management committee to take on the responsibility for organising the Christmas lights event.

8 Thame Fairs

The September and October fairs had taken place with little incident due to the effective partnership of the Council, police, fire service and the security firm.

A new agreement between the Council and the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain needed to be negotiated for next year since the current one expires on 31 January 2014. Members were invited to form a small working group to negotiate the terms of a new agreement which would have to take issues such as the positioning of Super Rides within the town, the cost of administering the fairs, the impact on the town and whether a 5yr or 10yr Agreement into consideration.

RESOLVED that:

i) Cllrs Champken-Woods, Dyer, Gunn and Stiles form the working group and make its recommendations back to the Committee in April 2014.

9 Elms Park

The installation of six lights along the footpath in Elms Park was progressing with a lead time of three months from the date the order is placed. It was anticipated that work would be completed by the beginning of April 2014.

Seating in the Park would be determined after a trial of two seats being placed along the footpath and the monitoring of any issues that may arise from these locations.

10 Ham Wood

The Woodland Trust had approached the Council with a request to consider taking on the lease of Ham Wood, located within the town boundary. The wood measured just over 2 hectares of which 40% was wooded with the remainder being rough grassland and scrub. It was a natural wood requiring little maintenance.

RESOLVED that:

i) Further investigation takes place into the conditions of the lease.

ii) An increase of £350 in the tree revenue budget be allowed for maintenance costs.

11 Town Awards

The terms of reference for the Awards Panel were reviewed and amended accordingly. The categories for awards in 2014 needed to be decided as well but. Members agreed that this item should be brought back to the next meeting to allow time for consideration.

RESOLVED that:

- j) The Terms of Reference be approved with the following amendment '4. Award Categories will be agreed by the Town Council'.***

12 Play Strategy Working Group

The report from the Working Group was deferred to the next meeting.

13 Cycle & Footpaths

21st Century Thame had approached the Council about projects that it could be involved with. The group was keen to progress ways to improve the signage on Lea Park and after discussing the project with the Town Clerk the parameters of the work were agreed.

14 Centenary of First World War

In 2014 the centenary of the commencement of the First World War will be commemorated throughout the country. The Royal British Legion is promoting the sowing of Poppy Seeds and the Thame Branch was keen to identify areas around the town that would be suitable for the project. Members agreed that any form of commemoration should be in keeping with the solemnity of the event.

15 Christmas Event

Members noted the arrangements for the event.

16 Maintenance Report

The report was duly noted.

17 For Information

The SODC Arts, Sports and Leisure Participation consultation was noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.02pm

Signed
Chairman, 11 February 2014