

THAME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee held on 13 November 2012 at 7.30pm in the Upper Chamber, Thame Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D W Bretherton, N G Champken-Woods (Town Mayor), N M Dixon, M L Dyer, A Gunn, P Lambert (Deputy Mayor), D A Laver and M Stiles (Vice Chairman).

Non-Voting

H Fickling

Officers

Mrs H Stewart, Town Clerk

Mrs A Oughton, Committee Services Officer

With the resignation from the Council of Councillor Buckland, the Vice Chairman Cllr Stiles opened the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Ciortan (other interest).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Participation

There were no applications to address the Committee.

4 Chairman

The Town Mayor took the Chair and called for nominations for Chairman of the Culture, Leisure and Recreation Committee.

Cllr Dixon and Cllr Stiles were both proposed and seconded. Following a vote Cllr Dixon was elected Chairman.

RESOLVED: That Cllr N M Dixon, be appointed Chairman of the Culture, Leisure and Recreation Committee for 2012-2013.

Cllr Dixon took the Chair.

5 Nomination to Outside Bodies

The Chairman called for nominations for a representative to the Carnival Committee. No nominations were received; this item will be taken to Full Council on 27 November 2012.

6 Food Festival

Sally Dorling and Alison Isherwood from Thame Food Festival presented a short DVD of the Festival. The fact that the event was held in the centre of the town added to the atmosphere and 2012 proved to be a great success with an estimated 20,000 people visiting the festival.

The popularity of the event meant areas were still cramped and the organisers were seeking support from the Council to expand the area for the event in 2013.

Members agreed that it had been a great success and visitor numbers were increased raising the profile of the town. The expansion details for 2013 had not been quantified as yet so the organisers were asked to discuss future proposals with the Town Clerk as and when they were developed.

7 Minutes

The Minutes of the Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting held on 18 September 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8 Budget / Finance Summary

Members received the budget summary up to 30 September 2012. A full set of the accounts were available to view at the meeting.

9 Service Priorities

The schedule of priorities, which included projects that had been brought forward from 2010-11 right up to 2012-13 were nearing completion. The Neighbourhood Plan would influence any future priorities of the Committee and a revised schedule for 2013-14 would be presented for agreement before the start of the next municipal year.

10 Verbal Reports from Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

- a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee – Cllr Laver reported the committee had new officers but not a permanent Chairman. There was concern surrounding the potential impact of the disease Ash dieback in the Reserve. The trees would be carefully monitored and action taken if required. Work on the new bridge was planned to start in the summer 2013.
- b) Leisure Centre Management Committee – Cllr Stiles reported she had not been able to attend the last meeting but would circulate the minutes when received. The Leisure Centre had received a number of complaints regarding the air conditioning not working in the dance studio.
- c) Carnival Committee – no report.
- d) Football Partnership – Cllr Dyer tabled a written report.
- e) Twinning Association – Cllr Laver reported on a successful trip to Montesson in September and a further trip in a couple of weeks. Members from Montesson would not be attending the Christmas event in Thame this year.
- f) Cricket Club – In the absence of Cllr Butler the Chairman read his report. The Club had severed its ties with M & P Sports and plans were being developed to rebuild the club house with proposed changes to the car park.
- g) Chinnor RFC – Cllr Gunn reported on the recent success of the club standing at sixth in the league. A meeting to discuss the 50th anniversary was due to take place in January.

11 SODC Economic Development Fund

The district council had invited applications for the Market Towns Fund for projects that support the aims of the Market Towns Action Plan. Two projects were presented to the Committee for consideration; i) to extend the cycle rack provision in the centre of the town and ii) install external electricity sockets to the Town Hall for use by organisations during events.

The terms and conditions of the Market Towns Fund requires joint funding. Members thought both projects worthwhile and agreed to recommend to Full Council that both projects be match funded.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the grant applications for the two projects detailed in the report, be supported***
- ii) To recommend to Full Council that match funding be provided from the Capital Reserves should the grant application be successful.***

12 Severe Weather

The report presented asked Members to consider the responsibility of the Town Council when severe weather conditions were experienced in the area. The limited resources of the Council restricted the extent of work that could be done but the purchase of a tow hitch mounted spreader and a hand chain hoist would make the Councils' contribution more efficient, economic and effective.

Decisions on working outside of core hours, would be made by the Town Clerk but a more formal agreement with staff about the terms and conditions needed to be developed for approval by both staff and the Council.

RESOLVED:

- i) To recommend to Full Council that a Hand Chain Hoist and the Tow Mounted Spreader be purchased from the Capital Reserves.***

13 Blue Plaques

A report was tabled in two parts; part one detailed the criteria for the issue of a Blue Plaque, part two to consider two nominations, Francis Kirby and Philip Ayres. After discussion it was agreed that more information was required if the Council was to have more involvement with this proposal. Cllrs Bretherton and Dyer agreed to work on this project.

14 Elms Park

A 5 year Management Plan was presented for consideration.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the 5 year Management Plan for Elms Park be approved.***

15 Continental Markets

Members were asked to support the holding of an Italian Market and a French Market around the cobbled area of the Town Hall during 2013.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the two continental markets for 2013 be approved.***

16 Thame Fairs

The report provided the Committee with an assessment of the fairs held in the town during September and October. There were some complaints but considering the change in set up arrangements all had gone reasonably well. The main complaint this year had been about noise levels. Since writing the report the Council had been advised a discussion had taken place with the Environmental Health Officer with regard to enforcement of noise levels for next year.

RESOLVED

- i) That the report be noted.***

17 Music in the Park

The Music in the Park event is organised by a Management Committee but the Council is corporately responsible. Holding such an event has risks in a number of areas, one of those being the financial risk. Budgets are agreed at the start but risk of loss/debt is increased should the event have to be cancelled and committed costs cannot be recouped from income.

The estimated budget for 2013 was presented and attention drawn to the commitments that have to be paid before the event. Obtaining insurance to mitigate any such losses would be prohibitive. The Council was requested to accept the risk and if necessary underwrite any commitments that could not be met from income for the event.

RESOLVED:

- i) That Full Council be recommended to make a budget provision for underwriting the Music in the Park Event for 2013 should agreed expenditure not be covered by income.***

18 Town Awards

Terms of Reference for the Town Awards Panel were presented for consideration. Two amendments were proposed and agreed.

The Committee requested that plenty of notice be given when the categories for the awards was to be considered. It was agreed that Cllr Butler could continue as the councillor representative.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Terms of Reference be approved subject to the addition of the Chairman of the CLR Committee being on the Panel.*
- ii) That the category of awards for 2013 remain the same as 2012 with one change, Best Working/Bravest Dog is replaced with Sporting Achievement.*

19 Tidy Thame

Cllrs Gunn and Stiles agreed to organise the Tidy Thame Day event for 2013.

20 For Information

- a) Stone Close Allotment Society** – It had been established that the Stone Close Allotment Site was a designated ‘Statutory’ site. This would be confirmed in writing to the Allotment society.
- b) Maintenance Team Update** – Unfortunately, after taking two lots of professional advice, the bees nest had to be destroyed during the felling of the trees at The Moats.
- c) The Christmas Event** – Members were provided with an update on the programme for the event.

The meeting concluded at 9.02pm

Signed
Chairman, 29 January 2012