

## THAME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee held on 10 September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Upper Chamber, Thame Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs D W Bretherton, N G Champken-Woods, N M Dixon (Chairman), M L Dyer, L Emery, A Gunn, P Lambert (Town Mayor), D A Laver and J Matelot Green (Deputy Mayor)

**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 Cllrs Dite (Personal) and Stiles (Holiday).

### 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 Public Participation

Mr Traylen from the The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain and Mr Sedgewick the owner of Plot 44 at Thame Fair addressed the council regarding the proposed location of the amusement ride, Rock Rage, on Plot 44 outside the Town Hall in the High Street. The ride was currently at the Fair in St Giles, Oxford located close to listed buildings and had previously visited Fairs around the country. The noise level did not exceed that of any other ride and it sat adequately on the proposed plot.

Members agreed that the order of the agenda should be changed so that this matter could be considered after item 4.

### 4 Minutes

The Minutes of the Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting held on 4 June 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 5 September Fair

The Committee was asked to consider the impact of the fair and the way it had developed with bigger and noisier rides in relation to the ability of an old market town being able to accommodate such an event. The latest request highlighted the dilemma faced by the Council, allowing a Super Ride called Rock Rage to be located on Plot 44 outside of the Town Hall brought new considerations about crowd control in this tight area, suitability of such a ride so close to a listed building and a change in the more family orientated rides of the Lower High Street compared to the more daring rides and older age group of the Upper High Street.

The general opinion was that Super Rides should be located in the Upper High Street area where there was adequate space and security coverage. However, as the fair was scheduled to arrive the following week a compromise was agreed enabling a ride called Super Spin to be located on Plot 44 for 2013 only. A review of its impact on the town would be considered at the CLR meeting in December leaving adequate time for discussion before the fair in 2014.

**RESOLVED that:**

- i) The amusement ride Super Spin be located on Plot 44 for this year.*
- ii) A review of the impact of the ride be considered at the Committee meeting in December.*

**6 Budget / Finance Summary**

Members received the budget summary up to 31 July 2013. A full set of the accounts were available to view at the meeting.

**7 Verbal Reports from Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies**

- a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee – Cllr Laver reported that the completion of the bridge was the main priority. Following a walk around the Reserve with volunteers a work schedule had been drawn up. A bird, bat and butterfly survey had been undertaken which showed a slight increase in numbers with three different species of bat identified.
- b) Leisure Centre Management Committee – Nothing to report.
- c) Carnival Committee – discussed under item 14.
- d) Football Partnership – Cllr Dyer reported a meeting of the Board was scheduled for next week. One member of the Board had resigned and two new Board members had been elected. The accounts for last year were currently with the auditor. The annual signing on of members for the new season had taken place and subscriptions collected.
- e) Twinning Association – Cllr Matelot Green reported that the AGM had taken place at which the new committee was appointed together with a new Vice Chairman. A group of 25 people from Thame would be visiting Montesson over the weekend 13-15 September.
- f) Cricket Club – a meeting had taken place with the new representative. A working group had been formed for the rebuild/refurbishment of the Pavilion.
- g) Chinnor RFC – Cllr Gunn reported that the club continued to do well and remained in the same division as last year. A Beer Festival would take place on 28 September from 12noon until late. Craig Chalmers had resigned.

**8 Burial Space**

The Committee recognised the need to extend the existing burial space at St Mary's Church and agreed that further investigations should take place to establish whether the allotment space at Priest End was suitable.

**RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL:**

- i) To authorise expenditure of up to £1150 for further site investigation work to be funded from the Capital Revenue budget.*
- ii) To authorise expenditure for a change of use planning application up to £200 to be funded from the Capital Revenue budget.*

## 9 Music in the Park

Despite the weather the event was attended by more than 1,900 people. It was noted that the event would not be possible without the volunteer groups and it was proposed that a small donation been given them in appreciation of their support.

Following consultation with primary schools the MiTP Committee were proposing that the event move forward next year to 4 May 2014, a week earlier than previous years. This would mean the event took place on the Sunday of the Spring Bank holiday weekend allowing parents with younger families to attend the event in full.

### RESOLVED that:

- i) A donation of £100 as recommended by the MitP Committee be paid to each of the volunteer groups.*
- ii) Elms Park be closed to the public between the hours of 10am and 9.30pm on 4 May 2014 for Music in the Park.*

## 10 Christmas Lighting

The Committee was informed that the existing scheme would be in place for Christmas 2013. The main aspects of the tender for the new contract were presented for comment. Cllr Champken Woods had a couple of points he would discuss with the Town Clerk after the meeting.

## 11 Christmas Event

The event this year would be following a Dickensian theme to celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of A Christmas Carol. All of the primary schools had agreed to take part in a lantern parade and commercial businesses in the town would be encouraged to dress their shop windows and wear traditional costumes. It was brought to Member's attention that the cost of holding the event far outweighed the budget and sponsorship was relied upon to bridge the gap.

The Committee noted the report.

## 12 Skate Park

Progress on the Skate Park refurbishment had been delayed due to a number of factors outside of the Working Group's control. As a consequence the timeline had been updated with an anticipated installation date of early 2015. The Mayor commented that he was saddened that the project would not be completed during his term of office.

The Committee noted the report.

## 13 Continental Markets

It was proposed that an Italian Market be held on 7-8 March 2014 and a French Market on 31 October – 1 November 2014.

### RESOLVED that:

- i) The two continental markets for 2014 be approved.*

## 14 Carnival

Despite the poor weather a surplus of £2000 was raised that the Carnival Committee recommended be donated to the Thame Youth Café.

**RESOLVED that:**

*i) A donation of £2000 to Thame Youth Café be approved.*

## 15 Play Strategy Working

The Play Strategy Working Group would report to the Committee at the next meeting.

## 16 Budget Working Group

It was agreed that Cllr Bretherton would join Cllr Dixon and Dyer on the CLR Budget Working Group.

## 17 Maintenance Report

The Committee expressed their thanks to the Maintenance Team for their continued hard work. The town and in particular the hanging baskets, looked amazing and compliments had been received from people in the town via the Information Centre and postings on Twitter and Facebook.

## 18 Service of Remembrance

The Committee noted the date and time of the Service of Remembrance for 2013. Discussion took place on whether councillors should assemble outside the town hall and be part of the parade or gather at the Memorial Gardens.

**RECOMMENDED that :**

*i) Processing or not be discussed at Full Council.*

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm

Signed .....  
Chairman, 3 December 2013