

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE
ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2011

Present: Cllr A Hansard - Chair
Cllr B Allen
Cllr S Davison Cllr K Wainwright
Cllr G Welton Cllr A Usher

33. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Harrison.

34. Declarations of Interest

Cllr A Hansard declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Sidney Banks Field.

35. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 September were **APPROVED**.

36. Financial Budget Report

The Committee reviewed the Financial Budget report up to 31 August 2011 which had been prepared by the Responsible Finance Officer.

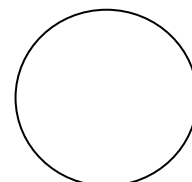
Members **NOTED** the report.

37. Community Centres Working Party

Cllr Welton, the Chairman of the Centres Working Party, presented the Working Party's Terms of Reference to the Committee. The Working Party had prepared a three year strategy to include input from other groups within the town. The objective of the Working Party was to realign the income and expenditure of the Priory Centre. Amongst other things, they would look at utilising the river frontage and investigate possible uses for the land behind the Eatons Community Centre.

The following actions had been decided:

- 1) To give the Community Centres Manager more flexibility in the pricing of room hire and alcohol. This would be done by creating several package deals tailored to individual hirers' requirements.



- 2) To give the Community Centres Manager the ability to reduce the prices of food and drink products approaching their sell by date and to create additional wine tariffs to maximise profit.
- 3) To allow charges for tiered seating and use of the stage for commercial users.

It was **RESOLVED** to action the above items. Proposed by Cllr G Welton, seconded by Cllr K Wainwright. Voting – unanimous.

38. Additional Play Areas

Cllr A Usher and the Operations Manager had reviewed two potential sites in Eynesbury for an additional play area. The Acting Clerk reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had confirmed they owned both sites.

It was **AGREED** that the Acting Town Clerk and Operations Manager would obtain prices for play schemes and report back to the next meeting.

39. Sidney Banks Field

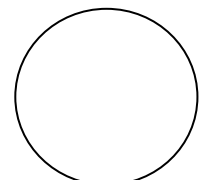
The Town Council had received three requests to hire out Sidney Banks Field to local football clubs. At the Operations & Amenities Committee meeting held on 6 September, it had been agreed that no one club could hire the field as this would be contrary to the intentions of the Banks family who had specified that the field must be available to everyone.

Cllr Allen had researched the costs and way in which the Priory Park football pitches were let. The pitches were hired at £500 per team each season and all maintenance was carried out by Huntingdonshire District Council.

The Operations Manager said that one or two pitches could be maintained on the field, to be rented out to various clubs, but that the costs of setting up, purchasing equipment and maintenance of the pitches would need to be investigated thoroughly. Pre-match and post-match inspections would need to be carried out by the Operations Team and they would need to look carefully at the type of goal-posts purchased.

It was **AGREED** that the Acting Town Clerk and Operations Manager would draw up a proposal for cost and usage and bring back to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.46pm.



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CHAIRMAN
05.10.2011