

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GUEST HALL, THE PRIORY CENTRE
ON TUESDAY 5 JULY 2011

Present:

Cllr B Allen	Cllr A Usher
Cllr S Davison	Cllr K Wainwright
Cllr A Hansard	Cllr G Welton
Cllr R Harrison	

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr R Harrison was elected Chairman.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr A Hansard was elected Vice-Chairman.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

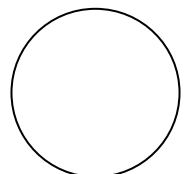
5. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 March were **APPROVED**.

6. Public Participation

Andrew Hickson of Kingfisher Independent Funeral Services spoke regarding the Rules and Regulations of the Lawn Cemetery. In February, the Town Council had resolved that the purchase of all burial plots in St Neots cemeteries would be conducted through the Town Council offices. He was unhappy with this decision and asked that it be revoked.

Mr Hickson felt that the current Rules and Regulations for the Lawn Cemetery contained unnecessary rules, such as the six month wait to erect headstones. This was not now necessary due to the headstones being installed in a trench away from the grave. He also felt that the Rules should contain more detailed information on the types of headstone and cremated remains memorials allowed.



The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Welton had met with local funeral directors and had been made aware of various concerns they had with the Rules and Regulations.

It was agreed that, from today, the bereaved could complete purchase forms at the Funeral Directors who would then submit them to the Council Offices, rather than expecting grieving relatives to come to the Council offices themselves to complete the paperwork.

It was also agreed that Members would review the current Rules and Regulations for the Lawn Cemetery and draft an amended version to bring to the next Committee meeting.

Cllr B Farrer speaking as a member of the public, gave Members background on the Sidney Banks Field. He said that it was left by the Banks family for all St Neots residents to use as a playing field and he felt that the Banks family would be unhappy to see it let to individuals as this would restrict access to other residents.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hickson and Cllr Farrer for their comments.

7. Briefing on the Sunfest Music Festival – 27th-28th August 2011

The Committee reviewed a report prepared by the Town Clerk updating them on the event and financial position of the Festival.

The Festival is forecast to come in within budget. It has proved difficult to source a major sponsor for this event but the Council has received generous support in the way of equipment loans and local businesses and retail outlets have donated £380 to the 'Tenners for the Town' programme feature.

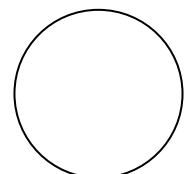
The Operations Manager reported that the generator was too big to fit on the Council's trailer and asked Members to approve the cost of hiring a trailer to transport the generator to and from the Market Square. This would be approximately £200.

Cllr A Hansard and Cllr S Davison agreed to liaise with Officers on planning the event.

Members **APPROVED** the hire of a trailer and **NOTED** the Sunfest report.

8. Cross Street Lights Erection

The Operations Manager reported that permission had not been given by landlords to erect the cross street lights in the town this year. He asked Members to consider an alternative use for the lights. They may



consider selling the cross street lights so that new lights could be purchased to extend the display down the High Street towards Cambridge Street.

It was **RESOLVED**

that this item is deferred until the next meeting and that the Operations Manager look into costs to bring back to the next meeting.

9. Sidney Banks Field

The Operations Manager reported that the Town Clerk had received a request from the Plough Football Club to lease the Sidney Banks Field. At present, the Field is used by local residents as a recreational area. The Town Council regularly cuts the grass but would be required to provide a white line marker and goal posts. Changing rooms were available to use at the Leisure Centre free of charge but needed to be booked in advance.

It was **RESOLVED**

that this item is deferred until the next meeting so that the Committee can obtain further information.

10. Grit Bins

The Operations Manager reported that he had used the scoring system approved at the previous Operations & Amenities Committee meeting to assess the roads in the Mill Hill area.

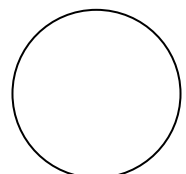
Five sites had received a score of 35 or over and were put forward for a grit bin, to be filled free of charge by Cambridgeshire County Council.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (i) That a score of 35 or over is required for a salt bin to be located in a road, and
- (ii) that the Operations Manager arrange the purchase and installation of five grit bins in sites agreed by the County Council.

11. Site Visits

Members had requested information on all of the Council's fixed assets. It was agreed that the Operations Manager would provide a list of all the sites maintained by the Team and send to the Committee Members.



12. Jubilee Celebrations

The Town Clerk had requested that the Committee considered options for the forthcoming Jubilee Celebrations in 2012. Members agreed to consult with residents and spend the next month considering ideas.

Cllr Welton to draft a post to be put on the website asking for ideas on how the town would like to celebrate this event.

13. Operations Department

The Operations Manager updated Members on the Operations Department. He reported that the current contract with the company responsible for the cleaning of the public conveniences is due to expire shortly and that the tender process is underway for a new contract.

Members **NOTED** the report.

14. Dukes Road Play Area

The Operations Manager informed Members that the Dukes Road Play Area had recently been refurbished and residents had expressed disappointment that there was no equipment for very young children.

It was agreed to investigate further and bring back to the next meeting.

15. Cambridgeshire County Council Street Lighting

Cambridgeshire County Council had contacted the Town Clerk seeking comments from the Council for future lighting provision.

Cllr Allen asked if the alleyway running beside the shopping parade to Lelys in Cambridge Street could be considered as it is not lit at present.

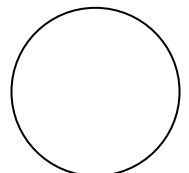
It was **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the alleyway running from Cambridge Street through to Longsands Road is put forward for consideration in this project; and
- (ii) that this item be put onto the next Council agenda.

16. Items for Next Meeting

Cllr Usher requested that a play area for the Parklands estate be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.



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CHAIRMAN

05.07.2011