

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**OPERATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD IN THE GUEST HALL, THE PRIORY CENTRE**  
**ON TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2012**

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

60. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

61. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

62. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2011 were **APPROVED** with an amendment to Minute 55(ii) to read gymnastic clubs instead of football clubs.

Proposed by Cllr Hansard and seconded by Cllr Wainwright.

63. Financial Report

The Committee received a summary of the Operations Department and Community Centres income and expenditure to 30 November.

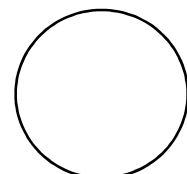
Members **NOTED** the Report.

Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Wainwright.

64. Centres Working Group

The Chairman presented the notes from the Working Group meeting of 8 December and asked Members to consider the following three proposals:

- (i) The Centres Manager purchase a secure storage unit for the Eatons Community Centre when it is required. Approximate cost for this is £2,500.



- (ii) To consider the refurbishment of the toilets in the Guest Hall of the Priory Centre. The estimated cost of this work is £20,000.
- (iii) To make improvements to the outdoor garden area at the Eaton's Centre in preparation for a BBQ event to be held for Armed Forces Day.

Other projects being considered by the Working Group included updating the Priory Centre kitchens, opening up the back of the Priory Centre to enable it to be used as a riverside café area, improving the signage for both Centres and the replacement of the boilers in the Priory Centre. The Chairman reported that all of these projects were within budget and would be put before the relevant Committees in due course.

Members **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Centres Manager be authorised to purchase a secure storage unit for the Eatons Centre, when deemed necessary, at an approximate cost of £2,500 and
- (ii) that the refurbishment of the Guest Hall toilets and improvements for the Armed Forces Day event be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee. In the meantime, further information would be obtained by the Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr Welton and seconded by Cllr Usher. The vote was unanimous.

65. Communication from HDC asking St Neots Town Council to Adopt Bushmead Road Play Area

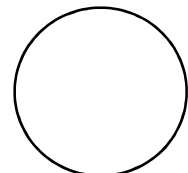
The Acting Town Clerk informed Members of the District Council's request that the Town Council adopt Bushmead Road play area. He had visited the site and it appeared to be in good condition. Incidences of vandalism had occurred when it had first been installed but now established, HDC had received few complaints.

The Acting Clerk had been advised of a further five play areas which may become available for the Town Council to adopt.

It was **PROPOSED:**

- (i) to consider the adoption of the Bushmead Road and other sites in more detail at the next meeting. In the meantime, the Acting Clerk would obtain further information on these sites.

Proposed by Cllr Davison and seconded by Cllr Allen. The vote was unanimous.



66. Clerk's Report on Matters Outstanding

New Play Area

A consultation document was in preparation and would be delivered to residents near proposed sites.

Christmas Lights

The Chairman reported that the Christmas Lights 2011 event had been an outstanding success and had come in within budget. The Operations Manager intended to bring the installation of the Christmas lights in-house next year and training would take place in preparation for this later in the year.

A vote of thanks was proposed for the Acting Clerk's recommendation to use Tricky Imp Event Consultants and the work of the Operations Team during the event.

Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Welton. The vote was unanimous.

67. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event

The Chairman of the Jubilee Working Group informed Members that preparation of the event was well underway. He had met with Andy Shaw of St Neots CAMRA Club who were interested in running a beer tent on the Riverside Park for the bank holiday weekend. The next step would be to source tables and chairs for the tea parties on the Market Square.

Cllr Allen reported that the St Neots Got Talent information had been distributed to shops and local schools.

Details of all events planned were available on the Town Council's website. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on 10 January.

Meeting ended at 7.36pm.

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**CHAIRMAN**  
03.01.2012