

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**OPERATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD IN THE MOOT, THE PRIORY CENTRE**  
**ON TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Present:

Cllr B Allen  
Cllr A Hansard  
Cllr R Harrison  
Cllr A Usher

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Welton, S Davison and K Wainwright.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 July were **APPROVED**.

20. Site Visit by Operations & Amenities Committee Members

The Operations Manager confirmed that a site visit had been arranged for Saturday 8 October, meeting at 9.30am at the Town Council Offices.

21. Cross Street Lighting

The Operations Manager updated Members on the possibility of selling the cross street lights not used by the Town Council. He had contacted the supplier of the lights and was awaiting a response from them.

Members **NOTED** the report.

22. Sidney Banks Field

A request had been received from the Plough Football Club to lease the Sidney Banks Field. At present there is no equipment on the field and, if it were to be hired out as a football pitch, the Council would have to provide this, as well as mark out and maintain white lines.

The Chairman proposed that Cllr Allen continue to research the original intentions of the Banks family regarding this field in order to find a long term solution.

Meanwhile, it was **RESOLVED**

that no football team be given sole use of the Sidney Banks field.

23. Grit Bins

The Operations Manager reported that he had placed an order for five grit bins with Cambridgeshire County Council, at a cost of £95 per bin. These would be installed within the next few weeks and be refilled by Cambridgeshire County Council at no cost to the Town Council.

Members **NOTED** the update.

24. Financial Budget Report

The Committee had requested that the Responsible Finance Officer prepare a financial statement for each meeting so that they were aware of costs incurred throughout the year and which areas they were responsible for.

It was **AGREED** that in future the Responsible Finance Officer would prepare a brief summary at cost centre level with explanatory notes.

25. Dukes Road Play Area

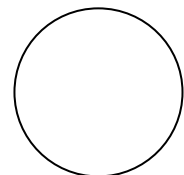
A Dukes Road resident had requested that swings be added to the new play equipment recently installed at Dukes Road. The Acting Clerk and Operations Manager had obtained quotes from play equipment suppliers. An approximate price for the new swings would be £3,500.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the purchase of future equipment for this play area until such time that quotes were obtained for the new Eynesbury play area.

26. Revision of Rules and Regulations for the Lawn Cemetery

The Committee had prepared a draft revision of the Lawn Cemetery Rules and Regulations after consultation with local funeral directors.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Rules and Regulations (copy attached to the signed copy of these minutes).



27. Additional Play Areas in St Neots

Cllr Hansard reported that he had spoken to Huntingdonshire District Council and they had confirmed that there was Section 106 money available for a play area in the area west of Tesco in Eynesbury.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Usher and the Operations Manager would investigate potential sites for a new play area in Eynesbury and that the Acting Clerk would ascertain ownership of any possible sites.

28. Sunfest

The Responsible Finance Officer updated Members on the current Sunfest budget which showed a deficit of £1600, although payment was still to be received from several participants.

The Operations Manager confirmed that he had contacted the fairground operator to secure a booking for the Jubilee celebrations.

Members **NOTED** the report.

The Chairman thanked the Council staff, particularly the Operations Manager, for their hard work during the Sunfest weekend.

29. Christmas Lights 2011 Arrangements

The Acting Clerk requested that, in the absence of a Town Centre Manager, a consultant be employed to organise the Christmas lights event which will take place on Friday 25 November. The Responsible Finance Officer confirmed that there were sufficient funds in the Christmas Lights budget to include this.

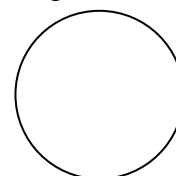
Members **RESOLVED:**

- (i) to appoint a consultant within the existing budget to organise the Lights event, and
- (ii) that Cllr Allen liaise with the Acting Clerk to bring this project forward.

30. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

At the meeting held on 5 July, Members had agreed to consider this event and consult with local residents.

It was **AGREED** that a Working Party be set up, led by Cllr Usher, and including Cllr Hansard, Cllr Davison and Cllr Allen. They would consider options for this event and report back to the next meeting.



31. Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council

The Acting Clerk had received a letter from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding commemorative tree and hedge planting for the Diamond Jubilee. Trees were available to plant in areas suggested by the Town Council.

The Operations Manager said that the only area of Council land viable for this scheme would be an area in the Old Cemetery near Waterside Court.

It was also suggested that local schools may be interested in planting a tree on their land for the Jubilee.

It was **AGREED** that:

- (i) the Acting Clerk would contact local schools to see if they would like to be included and that
- (ii) the Operations Manager and Acting Clerk would investigate possible sites for planting.

32. Priory Centre and Eatons Community Centre Update

The Community Centres Manager presented his updated Business Plan.

It was **RESOLVED**

that a Centres Working Party be set up consisting of Cllrs G Welton, K Wainwright, C Duck, I Gardener, the Acting Clerk and Centres Manager. The first meeting would take place on 22 September.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm.

.....  
**CHAIRMAN**  
05.09.2011