

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in the  
Committee Room, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs S Patience (Chairman), S Allcroft, P Broom, C Goodfellow, M Harrington, B Hewison and A Symmonds.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

**RA 13/08. Apologies:** Cllrs, D Farrar, S Mavin and R Roberts.

**RA 13/09. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Patience declared a pecuniary interest in the agenda item regarding the community allotment.

**RA 13/10. 2013/14 Budget**

The clerk circulated a copy of the 2013/14 budget as at 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013 This showed expenditure of £10,046 .The budget headings were used to discuss the work programme. It was highlighted that £2,232 had been spent on 3 new seats and £144 on 3 new benches and that grass cutting was not taking place at the Green Batt gardens. The cracked and broken information board at the Column Field was also discussed and the clerk agreed to look into ownership.

**RESOLVED the budget be noted.**

**RA 13/11. Magna Carta celebrations June 2015**

The clerk outlined that national celebrations were planned to commemorate eight hundred years since signing the Magna Carta. A national commemorative committee had been established. As part of the celebrations it was hoped that the settlements that had Barons who had been involved in the Magna Carta would participate. In Alnwick this had been Eustace de Vesci. The Council has been asked if it wishes to be part of a Heritage Lottery Bid which will look to secure £10,000 per settlement to cover costs/events and this would include making a £500 contribution. Councillors discussed the proposal and were supportive of being involved; it was felt that the Castle, Bailiffgate Museum and local schools may wish to get involved.

**RESOLVED: To support the 2015 Magna Carta celebrations and register our wish to be involved in the Heritage Lottery Fund application.**

**RA 13/12. Improving the Town's toilets**

The condition of the toilets in the Town Centre had been raised at the recent Council meeting and was passed to this Committee to discuss further. Councillors discussed the cleaning, the frequency of the urinal flushing, the cleaning materials used, the need for more signage and the need for a list of repairs to be drawn up. The feeling was that a steam clean was required and this should be requested by the end of the month and if a list of defects could be ascertained, then a request could be made to the local county councilors to see if they would fund a refurbishment. Councillor Patience and the clerk would also meet the Alnwick Neighbourhood Services Manager to consider how improvements could be made.

**RESOLVED: To seek to secure improvements in the condition of the Town's toilets as soon as possible.**

### **RA 13/13 Updates on allotments, play areas and communications.**

The clerk gave an update on the allotments. Lettings had started at St Georges and work was underway to clear some sites at Ratten Row. All St James allotments were currently let.

In respect of play areas, some vandalism had occurred at the Swansfield Park play area, parts and materials were ordered. Plans were circulated from a firm showing the possibilities for the Cawledge View and Glovers Green play areas; these would be used as the basis of tender documents for replacement facilities.

A further updated design for the website had been received and the Communications Group would be looking at how best to start inputting information.

**RESOLVED: To receive the updates**

### **RA13/14 Community Allotment proposal at Ratten Row**

Councillor Patience left the room for this item. It was reported that young people at Gallery Youth wished to take over a vacant allotment site and develop a community allotment. A site had been identified at Ratten Row and the Town Council had assisted in clearing it. £250 had been secured from a Keyfund bid and a request was being made to the Town Council for £500 towards fencing to make the plots secure. Councillors were in favour of the proposal.

**RESOLVED: To commit £500 to the community allotment project.**

### **RA 13/15. Any other business**

Councillor Hewison asked when representatives from Local Living will attend the committee to discuss the Alnwick Market and rent strategy. The clerk outlined that this was in hand but it would not be at the next meeting, as they were unable to attend.

Councillor Symmonds asked about any proposals to commemorate the first world war next year and about the possibility of accessing grants to improve the war memorial. The clerk outlined that he had researched grants and different grants were available from the War Memorials Trust. In the first instance it was necessary to decide what works were required. A survey of the war memorial had been undertaken a number of years ago, this would need to be revisited. The clerk agreed to investigate further for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm