

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on
Thursday 23rd June 2011 in the
Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs S Patience (Chairman), S Allcroft, J Bell, E Blakey, W Gridsale, R Roberts, S Walton, G Watson.

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

RA 11/1. Apologies: Cllrs Harrington and Hewison.

RA 11/2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Patience declared a personal interest in relation to item 4 (Proposed Bike Track for Gallery Youth Free Riders), and Cllr Watson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to item 7 (Consideration of financial support towards a town trailer).

RA 11/3. Proposed Bike Track for Gallery Youth Free Riders.

This item was referred to the committee by full council. Councillor Patience vacated the chair and Councillor Allcroft was elected chairman for this item. The committee received a presentation from young riders from the Gallery Youth project. They outlined who would use the track and the access arrangements off Alnmouth Road. Costs of between £20k and £60k were envisaged and potential grant sources had been identified. The track would have no lighting and it was unlikely structures would be erected, with the exception of possibly a youth shelter. Litter picking of the site would be the responsibility of the youth group. It was also highlighted that discussions had been held with Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council and that a planning application could be submitted in about 3 months time. Councillors were impressed with the presentation and felt this was a good project which was worth supporting. They felt that the Council should agree to take the lease provided there were no insurance issues and subject to the finalisation of an acceptable management agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Full Council should support the scheme by agreeing to hold the lease, subject to there being a suitable management agreement in place and no significant insurance issues.

RA 11/4. Confirmation of Committee Working Groups

The communications working group and allotments working group were highlighted as current working groups of this committee. Membership was determined as listed below.

RESOLVED: a) The Communications (Notice Board) Sub Group be comprised of Cllrs Allcroft, Patience and The Clerk; b) The Communications (Website) Sub Group be comprised of Cllrs Gridsale and Blakey, and c) the Allotments Working Group be comprised of Cllrs Harrington, Patience, Roberts, Gridsale and Mrs J Mann.

RA 11/5. Update on TPO request for woodland to rear of former Thomas Percy School

Councillor Patience updated the Committee on the discussions with Northumberland County Council. The County Council were not looking to deal with the matter with any urgency and she suggested that a meeting with Sandra Hagelburg Trees and Woodlands Officer would be helpful. This could also be used to explore the possibility of a woodland management scheme and the possible upgrading of the bridleway to the west of the site.

RESOLVED: The update be received and Cllr Patience organises the meeting with the Trees and Woodlands Officer.

RA 11/6. Allotments update

The clerk updated the committee on the improving position regarding allotment lettings, the water supply issues at Ratten Row which still needed to be resolved and the need for the allotment working group to consider the letting agreements.

RESOLVED: The update be received.

RA 11/7. Consideration of financial support towards a town trailer

The Clerk outlined that a request had been received from the Alnwick Community Development Trust for £500 towards the purchase of a town trailer. The total cost of the project was £2575 and the balance had been secured through the County Council's Community Chest. Members discussed the need for a trailer, insurance issues and costings. A number of members were not convinced of the need and felt that community support could be an alternative and they also wished for information to be obtained about the community chest application and any assumption made about town council funding.

RESOLVED: Further information be requested regarding the community chest application, the need for the trailer, insurance issues and the use of any income received.

RA 11/8. Budget Update.

The clerk outlined that the budget expenditure in the first quarter had been low, the main items being the town twinning celebrations, legal costs for the community orchard and the bin sticker project. It was highlighted that reserves were high and money had been identified for play equipment improvements in the Glovers Green and Cawledge View area.

RESOLVED: The Budget update be received.

RA 11/9. Any Other Business

Councillor Patience raised the need to update the website with the minutes of meetings

The meeting closed at 9.00pm