

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on
Thursday 27th September 2012 in the
Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Roberts (Chairman), J Bell, D Farrar and S Walton
In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

RA 12/16. Apologies: Cllrs S Allcroft, A Symmonds, M Harrington, B Gridale and S Patience

RA 12/17. Election of Chairman for the meeting
Councillor Roberts was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

RA 12/18. Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

RA 12/19. Budget Update
A copy of the Committee budget was circulated and discussed line by line. This showed expenditure to be £13,643. Significant expenditure will occur later in the year, on for example grass cutting, planting, grants to events and the website. The clerk agreed to check the budget allocated for repairs to seats.

RESOLVED: The budget update be received.

RA 12/20. Website and Notice Board Updates
The clerk outlined that attempts had been made to obtain further quotes for the website brief. The closing date for quotes was 27th September and one additional quote had been received. This firm would be invited to an interview with the 3 councillors previously involved, so that a decision could be taken at the next Council meeting. Some councillors were disappointed that only one new quote had been received, although it was recognised that three were received initially. It was noted that one firm did not quote as they could not deliver within the council's guide budget.

It was reported that progress still needed to be made on a new notice board and Councillors Patience and Gridale, together with the clerk were still to meet with the Civic Society to discuss their suggestions.

RESOLVED: To note the current position.

RA 12/21. Allotments Update
The transfer of the St George's allotments was discussed and it was agreed to carry out a site visit on Saturday 29th September at 9.00am. This would enable consideration to be given to plot boundaries, sizes and layout. The new three year lease for Ratten Row allotments was awaited from Northumberland Estates and a proposed meeting with allotment holders was to be organised. Councillor Roberts suggested that waiting list procedures be improved to firstly acknowledge all new applications and Councillor Farrar suggested giving people on the waiting list an annual update regarding their position on the list.

RESOLVED: To note the current position

RA12/22. Request for a Grant from Alnwick Spring Show
A request had been received for a grant towards the 2013 Alnwick Spring Show. It was noted that the 2012 show had made a credit balance of only £36.32 and was facing an increase in costs for the hire of Willowburn Leisure Centre to £800. Councillors were concerned at the increased cost of the venue and queried if a town centre venue such as

the Northumberland Hall might be better and cheaper. In addition, the accounts did not show any admission income. It was felt more information was required before the application could be considered.

RESOLVED: To defer a decision, pending further information.

RA 12/23. Update from the Planting Working Group

The clerk updated the meeting on the outcome of the planting working group meeting held on 19th September. At the meeting it was agreed to prepare a specification of the council's planting requirements which could then be used as the basis of obtaining competitive quotes for 2013. The approach was welcomed by the Committee who felt that this could give more control over quality and perhaps enable a number of local contractors to get involved.

RA 12/24. Play Areas

The meeting discussed the Glovers Green and Cawledge View play areas. The clerk had prepared draft questionnaire which were for local residents to determine the future play area requirements. The play equipment in the Glovers Green and Cawledge View areas are very dated and consist of singles pieces of equipment. Councillors felt the three Glovers Green play area questionnaires should be linked, as local children may use all three areas. It was agreed that councillors would submit any suggested amendments to the clerk as soon as possible and a final draft then circulated, prior to distribution. Areas for questionnaire distribution were also discussed and agreed.

RESOLVED: To feedback any comments on the draft questionnaires to the clerk so that the questionnaires can be finalise and distributed.

RA 12/25. Any Other Urgent Business

- a) Councillor Farrar volunteered to look to establish criteria for the funding/grant aiding of events. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm