

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on
Thursday 31st May 2012 in the
Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs S Patience (Chairman), B Grisdale, M Harrington, S Allcroft, B Hewison, K Moore and A Symmonds.

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

RA 12/1. Apologies: Cllrs Bell and Roberts.

RA 12/2. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

RA 12/3. Working Group Membership and Updates – Allotments and Communications

The following working group membership was proposed:

- a) Allotments:- Councillors Patience, Harrington, Roberts, Bell and Grisdale.
- b) Communications:- Councillors Patience, Grisdale, Allcroft, Hewison and Moore.

RESOLVED: to agree the above Working Group Membership.

RA 12/4. 2012/13 Budget and work programme

The clerk circulated a copy of the budget for 2012/13 as well as the final outturns for 2011/12. These were considered in detail. Overall in 2011/12 there had been a committee underspend of some £15,000. £7,000 of this was as a result of the communication work and in particular the website not progressing until this year. Expenditure in 2012/13 to date, was at a low level and budget provision seemed adequate. It was not clear if the Young Ambassador Scheme was to continue. Overall the budget had some £3,500 unallocated and councillors were encouraged to look for expenditure ideas. It was felt that some of the engagement initiatives may result in additional expenditure.

RESOLVED: to receive the budget and work programme update.

RA 12/5. Queens Diamond Jubilee- June 2012

It was reported that details of the Jubilee Literary Competition for schools had been sent out to first and middle schools. The closing date was 13th June. The entries would then be judged and the winners would receive Jubilee mugs and book tokens. The Town Council was ordering three new seats, which will replace those near to the Hotspur Statute and it was agreed that they will have a jubilee plaque on them. Prices had been obtained for three walnut trees which would be planted to mark the Jubilee, as previously reported these would be in the Column Field, Swansfield Park and the Community Orchard.

RESOLVED: To note the Jubilee proposals.

RA12/6. Festival of Alnwick Update.

The clerk updated the Committee on the preparations for the Festival of Alnwick. A detailed programme had been prepared including events in the Market Place, The Alnwick Playhouse and at various sporting clubs around the town. The closing ceremony would be held in the Alnwick Garden and would include the presentation of medals to winners of competitions including the Mayor's civic award winners. It was reported that Northumberland County Council had given £5,000 towards the festival, plus in-kind support. Overall the festival was costing about £22,000 to put on (including the £11,000 cost of the festival co-ordinator agreed by the Town Council), and it was envisaged a small profit would be made on the event. The risks had been recently reviewed and key issues were getting enough volunteers and ensuring enough publicity for the event. The success of the festival

was very much dependent on getting good weather. Councillor Patience requested that an update be given to the full council at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To receive the update

RA12/7. Play area updates

The toddler play area at Alnwick North had now been taken over by the Town Council and had been added to the insurance policy. The zip wire is undergoing repair work by Northumberland County Council and will be put into working order before being handed over. Still no news on Swansfield Park play area and the possible transfer to the Town Council. This play area continues to be the subject of ongoing discussions regarding an endowment paid by the developer.

RESOLVED: To receive the update.

RA12/8. Any other business

Councillor Patience asked if there was any update on the proposed TPO on the woodland adjacent to the former Thomas Percy School. The clerk agreed to investigate.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm