

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 in the  
Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.15pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs S Patience (Chairman), J Bell, B Grisdale, M Harrington, S Allcroft, B Hewison and R Roberts.

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

**RA 11/29. Apologies:** Cllr Blakey.

**RA 11/30. Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

**RA 11/31. Current Budget position 2011/12**

The clerk circulated a copy of the expenditure and estimates for 2011/12 as at 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Expenditure for the year was projected to be £28,000; this is £15,000 under budget and was mainly as a result of not proceeding with any playground improvements and progressing with the communication project work to incur expenditure in 2011/12. Within the overall budget, expenditure on events will exceed the initial budget due to additional costs arising from the Queen's visit and the Olympic torch visit, both of which were approved by Council. The clerk agreed to get an update on the proposed Town Guide and Councillor Harrington agreed to organise a site meeting regarding the Peter's Mill Bridge project.

**RESOLVED: to receive the budget update.**

**RA 11/32. Allotments Update**

The clerk reported on a meeting that he had with the County Council regarding the St George's allotments and a date of 1<sup>st</sup> May was suggested for the transfer to the Town Council. Councillors were keen to ensure that the allotments were cleaned up before the transfer takes place. Nearly all the rents for 2012 had been collected at Ratten Row and St James's and 5 allotments had been recently relet. The Ratten Row water supply renewal works still need to be progressed.

**RESOLVED: to receive the allotments update.**

**RA 11/33. Queens Diamond Jubilee- June 2012**

A number of Jubilee ideas were discussed. The Alnwick Garden are progressing their idea of a family picnic on the Bowburn. This will be on the Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and will be free entry. The Town Council will be replacing 3 seats these will be near to the Hotspur Statute and it was agreed that they will have a jubilee plaque on them. The clerk circulated a copy of a proposed literary competition for schools which was supported by councillors. This had three categories, (first schools, middle schools and high schools) and had a suggested closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> May. It was also planned to plant three walnut trees to mark the Jubilee, these were suggested to be in the Column Field, Swansfield Park and the Community Orchard and advice was being taken from the County Council regarding the planting. At this stage, it is not known if a beacon will be lit.

**RESOLVED: To agree the Jubilee proposals.**

**RA11/34. Communications – Website & Notice Board**

Councillor Grisdale circulated a briefing document on the proposed new council website, this covered the design principles and the functionality required. The document was discussed and agreed by councillors. A timetable was discussed which would result in a decision being made by the Council at their meeting in May. Little progress had been made

on the production and siting of a new notice board. The clerk agreed to check this further with the County Council Planning Officers and Conservation Officer.

**RESOLVED: To seek quotes for the new website and invite firms to make a presentation to the Committee and to progress the scheme for a new noticeboard.**

**RA11/35. Play Area Updates**

The clerk reported that Northumberland County Council were planning to hand over the small toddler play area, the basket swing and the zip wire at Alnwick North to the Town Council at the beginning of April. Prior to handover, councillors wished to see the zip wire fully operational and with an appropriate notice about the correct use. At present Northumberland County Council have not agreed to transfer the play area at Swansfield Park. This play area is the subject of ongoing discussions regarding an endowment paid by the developer.

**RESOLVED: To note the position regarding the transfers from Northumberland County Council.**

**RA11/36. TPO Thomas Percy Woodland**

Councillor Patience updated the Committee and reported that Peter Rutherford (Northumberland County Council) had agreed to progress a TPO on the Woodland. She also reported that Northumbrian Water were doing some excavation in the wood and therefore the order was urgent.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm