

**A RECREATION ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES
COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL WAS
HELD ON MONDAY 24 MARCH 2014 AT 7.00PM AT GLOBE
HOUSE, ALCESTER (Seggs Lane entrance)**

Present

Cllr. Cumberbatch, Cllr. S. Payne, Mayor M. Cargill, Cllr. J Kenyon, Cllr. Y Hine, Cllr. E. Payne, Cllr. S. Adams, Cllr. A. Brown, Cllr. J. Bunting.

Public Participation at Discretion of Chair

Frances Carroll, Member of the Environmental Sub-Committee spoke regarding the wild flower site at the Jubilee Fields and Alcester's Bee Friendly Town Policy.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 24 February 2014 were proposed by Mark Cargill, seconded and signed.

4. Strategic Objectives and Aims for 2014/15

Cllr. Cumberbatch asked the committee to review the document and make comments.

5. Play Areas Equipment/Other Recreational Facilities

Cllr. Cumberbatch stated that he had completed the inspection of our equipment in line with the Public Inspection Report and said that now is the time to prioritise any necessary work required. Cllr. S. Payne, not having seen the report asked for a copy to be sent to him.

Skate Park - No decision has been made regarding the quotations received.

Cllr. Kenyon suggested that there might be an alternative site for the skate park on the existing Greig Centre tennis courts. After discussing various options it was agreed that any decision regarding the skate park should be put on hold for a couple of weeks pending developments with the Greig Hall.

The Clerk has produced a large scale map of the Jubilee Fields and Westbury Park recreation area and asked that any future ideas for developing these areas should be looked at as a whole and plotted on the map. Cllr. Bunting reminded the committee that he had already marked areas for the commemorative benches that have been offered by the High Bailiff. The scale map will be put together with options and the Committee will then work out priorities in line with the budget.

6. Trees & Footpaths

Trees - A preliminary inspection of the pollarded trees at the cemetery revealed that they were weak and top heavy. The Clerk is meeting with

our contractor, Roots to Shoots, on the 11th. April for a more thorough inspection and warned the committee **that there was a possibility that there would be a significant cost implication.**

7. Environmental Matters

Cllr. Knapman's proposal to change the site of the extension to the wild flower corridor was not agreed by the committee. Cllr. Bunting is to arrange for the ground work to be done at the site that was originally requested to enable the planting to go ahead.

Councillor Knapman was concerned that the 'bee-friendly' town initiative was not moving forward as per the policy document. There was some confusion on this matter and the Clerk would find the right wording used at Full Council.

8. Allotments

No problems reported. A request to install a shed on Bleachfield Street South was granted. A request for an allotment holder to keep two hens and also to replace a shed at Bleachfield Street North when needed was granted.

9. Cemetery

The memorials for Silcox, Malin and Stephens were all approved. Regarding the removal of graves and gravestones that are over a hundred years old, Councillor Cumberbatch said that we must deal sensitively with the issue and research should be done to locate any existing family members.

10. Litter Bins

Cllr. Kenyon asked if the bins at Oversley Green could be moved to a more suitable location. Cllr Adams said she would ask Stratford District Council.

11. Budget Update

No business.

12. Correspondence

The walk in the park project was discussed and thought to be a good idea in principle.

13. Propositions to Full Council

The Recreation, Environment and Open Spaces Committee has agreed that the allotment charges should be increased to £36 per annum for Alcester Parish Residents and £48 per annum for all others. These charges should come into effect in January 2015. The Committee now seeks the approval of the full council on this matter.

14. Date of Next Meeting - To be decided. Possible date Tuesday 27th May 2014

J Rowlatt - Clerk to ATC Recreation & Open Spaces Committee