

CGPMG/01/21

Oswestry Town Council

Cae Glas Park Management Group

Minutes of a meeting of the Cae Glas Park Management Group held on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 11.00 am by Zoom.

Present: The Mayor, Councillor M Jones
Councillors J Cockburn, P Milner, M Isherwood,
D Kerr, O Rose (from Item 9d) G Stackhouse (up to
Item 9c)

In The Chair: Councillor M Isherwood

Also In Attendance: Arren Roberts, Town Clerk
Simon Cranmer, Operations Manager
Sandra Trevor, Office Manager
Clive Knight, Oswestry Team Tennis
Gavin Porritt, DPA

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

It was **resolved** that Councillor Isherwood be appointed as Chairman.

It was **resolved** that Councillor G Stackhouse be appointed as Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor J Moore – working

Councillor O Rose – another meeting (joined the CGPMG at Item 9d)

Councillor S Froggatt – another meeting

3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor J Cockburn noted that his wife was a member of the Oswestry Tennis Club but that he had no pecuniary interest in the item.

4. Oswestry Team Tennis Clubhouse

The Chair welcomed Clive Knight of Oswestry Team Tennis (OTT) and Gavin Porritt of DPA to discuss the proposal and designs to transform the storage shed in the Park into a clubhouse for the use of OTT members.

Clive provided a background of OTT whose 60% of members reside in Oswestry and the surrounding area. Financially, OTT currently had £40k towards the project and, once planning permission had been granted, would start a heavy funding campaign. OTT have worked very positively with Oswestry Town Council over the years and provided a healthy activity for young people in Oswestry and the area. Mr Knight informed Members that OTT was the only tennis club in Shropshire without a clubhouse.

Mr Knight and Mr Porritt were thanked for presenting to the CGPM Group.

After discussion it was **resolved to recommend:**

- That, in principle, Council support the proposal to turn the building into a Clubhouse;
- To proceed with a 22 year Agreement with OTT;
- That, the Cae Glas Park Charity consider the proposal when they next meet;
- To note that a formal legal process would be required concerning the provision of a shed for the tenant's garden and to vary his Lease and that the details. This alongside the extension of the lease and the consent process would be discussed with the Councils solicitor.
- To note that alternative storage would need to be found and to consider whether the area behind the toilet block could be used

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to store the ride-on mower but that an alternative location would be sought for the road-salt.

- The Town Clerk would take all of the above recommendations to Council in July rather than to the Amenities Committee.

5. Minutes

Minutes of a meeting held on 9th March 2021 **CGPMG/02/21** were confirmed with an abstention from Councillor D P Milner who was not present at that meeting.

6. Path Surfacing

Members considered report **TC/3998/21** along with the Invitation To Tender and **recommended** approval and process be taken to Council in July.

7. Remembrance Interpretation

Members were informed that Mr Chris Woods had provided costs for materials to the value of £800 for two interpretation on the Wilfred Owen statue and Harold Whitfield plaque.

After discussion it was **resolved** note the Working Groups support for the proposal and **to recommended** that the Amenities Committee approve the request.

Councillor M Jones informed Members that Tim Turner who commissioned the Wilfred Owen statue was keen to have his name put on the plinth and had provided an estimated cost of £150 + VAT to have this work carried out.

After discussion it was agreed that this would be a separate **recommendation** to Council.

8. Memorial Bench

The Chair reminded Members that the Council have a policy to use standard benches both in the Park and in the Cemetery. This was clarified by the Operations Manager who found a new good quality design of bench last year made of sustainable tropical hard wood.

Although sympathy was with the family, it was agreed that the Council should comply with the existing policy, to retain uniformity and retain the existing character of the Park as a place of rest and relaxation and must therefore refuse the bespoke steel Parachute Regiment Association bench.

After discussion, it was unanimously **recommended** that the family be offered an alternative solution of having a plaque which reflects the Parachute motto and symbol on a standard bench.

9. Third Party Event Proposals 2021

a) **Culturefest 21 (7th August)**

Members agreed that although this event had previously been successfully held on the Market, this year's proposal was a new location which would be much more of a challenge to the maintenance team.

After discussion it was agreed and **resolved** that the event be approved but the event organiser would need to be made aware of the possible risk of damage to the grass should there be wet weather and therefore the contingency for protective matting if required. The Council reserve the right to cancel the event if necessary.

b) **Wellness Festival (13th – 15th August)**

Members noted the ambitious programme given the timescale provided and were made aware that there had been dialogue with BID concerning funding and a revised plan had been requested, although this had not been received.

After discussion it was **resolved** that:

- Although the CGPG were happy in principle with the proposal, a detailed event plan setting out how it will

operate would be required before a decision could be made.

- A contingency plan (wet weather) would also be required.
- Organisers would be informed of the need to speak with the local Police and the Safety Advisory Group at Shropshire Council with the outcome being reported to the council.
- Final decisions regarding the details of the event in Cae Glas Park be delegated to officers.

c) The Well – Outdoor Outreaches (Sunday evenings 7-8pm)

It was agreed and **resolved** that this proposal would be declined on the basis that it was not an appropriate event for the Park on the basis that the Park was for rest and relaxation and not a place for religion and politics.

d) Stokes Fun Fairs – summer holiday fairground rides in the Park

It was noted by Councillors that the arrangements with Stokes Fun Fairs required formalising.

It was agreed and **resolved**:

- If the use of bouncy castles in the Park were to continue (beyond 2021) then this should be presented as a tender opportunity;
- To permit the operation of the bouncy castle on weekends, with the exception of the balloon carnival weekend, until the tender has been arranged and agreed;
- To put in place an agreement.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:25 pm and suggested a walk / talk around the Park, as an informal site meeting, be arranged.

Councillor M Isherwood
Chairman