



Devizes Town Council

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RECREATION AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Recreation & Properties Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 2 August 2011

Time: Immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Devizes

Enquiries: 01380 722160

The Town Mayor: (Councillor Mrs Evans)

Chairman: Councillor Mrs Winchcombe

Councillors:	Mrs Bridewell	Callow	Gagen
	Gudgeon	Hopkins	Nash
	Smith	A R Taylor	

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 21 June 2011, which have been circulated with the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

5. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES INCOME FIGURES

Income figures for the Council's venues for the period April to June 2011 are issued alongside this agenda.

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES - CUSTOMER SATISFACTION FEEDBACK

10 returns received for June showing 100% satisfaction with special mentions for Venues staff and high standard of catering.

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES OCCUPANCY FIGURES & MARKETING INFORMATION

Figures are provided for June 2011. This shows an increase on bookings for last 3 months, but a decrease on last year. This could be a result of the present financial situation as enquiries have increased.

The Marketing Plan for Venues is being reviewed next week and a report will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – HILLWORTH PARK

This progress report seeks to bring the Committee up to date with the recent progress at Hillworth Park.

A meeting of the Hillworth Park Working Party took place on Tuesday 26 July 2011 and the notes of that meeting are attached for information (doc 8/1).

The headline issues are:

- The New Build Contract has been awarded to Gaiger Brothers Ltd
- The Landscape Contract will be awarded to Blakedown Landscapes.
- Gaiger Brothers Ltd are due to start on site on Tuesday 2 August 2011 – at this point the Hillworth Road entrance will be closed and access to the park restricted to the Queens Road entrance
- Blakedown Landscapes are due to start on site on Monday 5 September – at this point the park will be closed in its entirety and continue to be so until Spring 2012.
- The anticipated date for reopening will not be available until Blakedown are able to confirm their preliminary programme.
- The current projected costs of the project are within the overall grant budget.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – BOOKINGS FOR MERCHANTS SUITE

Block bookings by the Bar Manager for the nightclub in the Merchants Suite are from 9pm for the first and last Fridays of the month and every Saturday night at the moment. Blues 'n Zuz youth clubs (operated by the Police) account for one Friday in the month, leaving one Friday available to market.

Enquiries for possible Friday night events, for example, school party nights, have been successfully converted to bookings for Thursday.

The Saturday club nights have been operating for so long, these have little impact on booking enquiries for other events. The Merchants Suite is marketed as available mainly from Monday – Thursday for many different functions and is often used as a bar facility when other events are being held in the Corn Exchange.

There is a consideration to be made when the club is being used, particularly when other rooms are being used in the Corn Exchange, as noise (especially bass) can reverberate from the basement, so this does have an impact on bookings which might go on later than 8pm.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – CRAMMER REPAIRS

The Committee will be aware that work started on the Crammer, to repair the Church's retaining wall and remove silt from the water.

As part of the work it was necessary to undertake a new contamination analysis of the silt, even though one was undertaken in 2008. This new survey identified the presence of high concentration of hydrocarbons (oils), which are likely to have come from the road.

It is unlikely that this contaminated silt will be able to be sent to a regular landfill site and may need specialist treatment before disposal can take place. Its retention on site is not an option as the water levels often drop below the level of the silt in warm weather, causing some discomfort to residents of Church Walk.

Currently the silt has been pulled back from the construction area to allow Gaigers to start their work of rebuilding the wall. In the meantime, officers are seeking a solution through the services of Grif Dixon an environmental surveyor.

Officers are also in contact with Wiltshire Council, as they control the source of contamination and therefore may carry some liability.

Should it be found that the Town Council need to undertake a full decontamination on site, then this may have a significant cost implication.

11. EXEMPT REPORT FOR DECISION – RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

12. QUESTION TIME

Members will be allowed a short period in which to put questions on matters within the remit of this Committee which are not contained in the reports of matters formally considered by the Committee at this meeting. The question may be answered at the meeting or may be referred back to the Committee at a later date. The question may not be the subject of any further details.