

Eastwood Town Council
Leisure & Maintenance Committee
Monday 25 January 2010

Present Cllr Brian Griffin
Cllr K Longdon
Cllr Josie Forrest
Cllr David Bagshaw
Cllr Peter Butler
Cllr Charles Robb
Cllr Richard Dodge
Cllr Hazel Charlesworth
Cllr Bob Charlesworth
Cllr Tara Fiddymont

Cllr R Charlesworth called the meeting to elect a new chair to the committee. Cllr D Bagshaw proposed Cllr B Griffin with Cllr P Butler seconding. There were no further nominations and the meeting was unanimous in support. Cllr B Griffin took the chair of Leisure & Maintenance Committee.

LM17/10 Apologies

Cllr J Zalewski (working)
Cllr G Robb

LM18/10 Declarations of interest

Cllr D Bagshaw as Allotment holder personal interest
Cllr B Griffin as Allotment holder plus maintenance on Coronation Park Bowls Pavilion, President of Bowling Club, and Elderly Garden Services Personal Interest

LM19/10 Notification of Lobbying

None

LM20/10 Garden Service 2010

The Town Clerk reported that the secretary has made arrangements to send out applications forms and these to be put in Eastwood & Kimberley Advertiser, Council notice boards and website. Residents on the service last year will also be written to. In addition Garden Services for the Elderly budget has increased in 2010 from £7,350 to £7,750. The committee are asked to **note** the report.

Chair asked Town Clerk for total costings for 2009/10 for Garden Service. Report next meeting. (Actual cost £7305, to budget of & £7350, budget variance +£45)

Cllr B Griffin reported that the current contractor Mr Nick Lamb of Chestnut Garden Services has agreed to provide the service as contractor with no increase to contract rates. The committee were asked to agree to this contractor to continue in 2010. Cllr H Charlesworth proposed with Cllr P Butler seconded with unanimous approval by the committee. The committee were very satisfied with the service this contractor has provided in previous years.

LM21/10 Derby Road Allotments

The Town Clerk reported he had made a visit to this site on Wednesday 20th January 2010 with Cllr Brian Griffin & Mrs Caroline Jamison. It was noted that plots 37 and 70 were now available to be rented out. In plot 37 it was suggested that this is split as two plots. The major concern however, there is three large piles of rubbish that needs to be removed. This would need either two large skips costing £190 total or to use Probation Payback scheme to remove the rubbish. In speaking to the Probation Officer they would need permission to leave the rubbish at the tip and they only have a small van to remove the rubbish. I have arranged a meeting on Monday 1st February 2010 with Probation to discuss this option if agreed by this committee. If it is agreed to split plot 37 we will need to renumber the plots as 36, 37 and 38.

In respect to plot 70 this is now available and it was suggested that this plot was split into 3 allotments. That would mean renumbering as plots 69, 70 and 71 with plot 71 now becoming plot 71A. Please see new map of Derby Road Allotment (attached). There would be a need to put in a path link at the side of plot 68 to gain access to the new plots. Cllr Griffin suggested I contact Mrs Harrison on plot 68 to ask for the pallets that would border the new path be made completely secure as currently they are prompt up with steel posts. We will require this action carrying out before the new path is put in on the grounds of health and safety.

It was also established that the total water bill for this site £42(6 months)

After a discussion Cllr R Charlesworth proposed to remove the rubbish by use of Probation Payback Scheme and hire of skips to a maximum of £200. Cllr R Dodge seconded the proposal with unanimous approval by the committee. Town Clerk to organise the operation combining Probation Payback staff and skips on the same day.

It was agreed to divide plots 37 and Plot 70 into smaller plots. In addition Cllr D Bagshaw proposed and R Charlesworth seconded for the town clerk to write to Mrs Harrison plot 68 to remove the pallets in order to establish a new path as shown on site map.

LM22/10 Allotment Waiting List

Town clerk confirmed that the current waiting list for allotments is:

- Derby Road allotments = 23 waiting
- Dovecote Road Allotments = 19 waiting

It was noted that no more requests for allotments to be added to the waiting list until it is reduced to 10 per site.

The Town Clerk further reported that there has been no response from residents inviting interests to offer their gardens for cultivation by people requiring allotment facilities.

Cllr D Bagshaw reported that in his view there are a large number of pensioners who would be delighted for someone maintain their garden. The scheme would have to be promoted in such a way to prevent criminal issues. To achieve that one person **only** would be appointed to maintain the garden and be known to the tenant.

Town Clerk to contact Nick Lamb for possible gardens to be considered. In addition Cllr H Charlesworth asked if a leaflet could be drawn up to promote the service which Nick Lamb and members of the public could distribute. Cllr Bagshaw welcomed that suggestion and also felt that as Nick Lamb visits the garden for the elderly scheme, he could monitor any take-up on the allotments that are set up in elderly gardens

Cllr D Bagshaw felt this project needs to be promoted as a community project to assist local elderly people maintain their gardens. Reaffirmed the need to protect the owners of the gardens by setting up the scheme where the allotment holder **only** would be allowed to maintain the garden. Cllr T Fiddymant was concerned that a contract could still be breached beside our safeguard considerations. Cllr R Dodge confirmed that the only way forward was to allow the allotment holder **only** to be the only person allowed to access the garden and be known to the owner. Cllr C Robb said the allotment holder should only be allowed access to the garden **not** the house. Town clerk was asked to seek advice from legal representatives, and to put together a press article to promote the new scheme.

Cllr R Dodge proposed that 'the Council pursue a newspaper article promoting the garden service whilst introducing the landshare scheme with the assistance from Nick Lamb' this was seconded by Cllr R Charlesworth with unanimous approval by the committee.

LM23/10

Dovecote Road Allotment –Water Supply

Cllr B Griffin reported he had as previously reported he had investigated the excessive water bill for this site which was approximately three times the amount of Derby Road allotments. This was checked with Severn Trent and in addition a check done by Cllr Griffin, for leaks carried out by monitoring for four nights and checked the meter when no water was being supplied. This proved that the needle didn't move confirming there were no leaks. Then he checked by taking 6 litres of water from tap and monitoring the meter. The meter confirmed that six litres had been removed. That therefore proved the misuse of water. We now need to decide how we deal with this matter.

We should certainly send a strong letter to all allotment holders pointing out that this council will not tolerate twice the normal water rates bill to the previous years demand. The water rates on this site have been at a consistent level in previous years.

Cllr R Dodge felt rather than a strong letter, a business letters be sent out to all allotment holders on both sites (Dovecote Road and Derby Road) stating your rents are based on a budget of, on which the water rates are budgeted at, therefore you are dramatically exceeding the water rates and unless you dramatically reduce the water usage on this site there will be

An increase in allotment rents. The allotment holders then have the choice.

Letters from Mrs Dring Secretary Dovecote Road Allotment Society

Letter 1st November 2009

Discussion on Bonfires. Need for a policy on this issue. Agreed that fires can be lit only during period of last week October and first week in November. Proposed by Cllr H Charlesworth and Seconded by Cllr R Charlesworth with anomious approval by the committee.

Beekeeping on allotment sites A discussion took place on this issue. The meeting was divided in its opinion Cllr R Dodge proposed that the keeping of bees on Eastwood Town Council allotments was rejected. Seconded by Cllr D Bagshaw with unanimous approval by the committee.

Letter 20th January 2010.

Security fencing is erected to replace the existing hedge at the entrance There has been some theft, cash from the cabin and produce from the plots stolen. Cllr B Griffin reported that an alarm had been fitted in the cabin. Bolt croppers/angle grinders were used to gain access to cabin. Cllr D Bagshaw reported there were basic crime prevention issues not in place on the site, and because of the location no-one would have heard the perpetrators stealing on the site. Cllr D Bagshaw asked Town Clerk to investigate if we are the owner of the car park area. Sign request to be left to next meeting. Cllr R Charlesworth felt we had deeds to this site.

Vacant allotments

Plot 51 Mr Kershaw. He has recently died. Plot may become available. Plot 33 this plot becoming available due to tenants leaving the area. Cllr B Griffin suggested this plot is divided up. Cllr R Dodge proposed that because we are not in control of our existing allotments sites he would be against the request for an additional allotment site. The Chair said this issue had been discussed before and needed no further comments.

LM24/10

Report from Cllr Griffin/Cllr Forrest meeting 20th January re Maintenance issues on Coronation Park

Cllr J Forrest reported on the above meeting with Cllr Griffin, Tim Crawford (TC) Broxtowe Environmental & Parks Manager, and Steve Woodward

(SW) Broxtowe Parks & Environmental Contract Manager & Town clerk in attendance.

Cllr B Griffin explained the Council's concerns over various issues regarding Coronation Park. Cllr B Griffin acknowledged there had been some improvement so it was not all bad. The bowling green he said had been the best it had been for years. Cllr B Griffin added that he had received various complaints so had to follow them up hence the reason for the meeting.

SW reported that Broxtowe receive few complaints from residents regarding the parks in Eastwood and in fact there had only been two during 2009. The Coronation park grass is cut the same as every other park in the borough. The cuts to the highway verges had been reduced down from 10 a year to just 4 (hence Plumpton Way looking un-cared for). He provided a list of work schedules for Coronation Park. (Attached)

Cllr J Forrest asked about the hedges around the park and why they had been removed, and that people had commented that the openness was preferred and that it felt safer. TC responded by saying some of the hedges were old and dying and it was felt purely from a safety angle, that the iron fencing required attention which had meant the removal of the hedges. The inclement weather had meant a delay in painting.

Cllr B Griffin asked about the bowling pavilion; the smell from the drains and the unpleasant sanitary provisions. TC said the drains had been physically cleansed and sanitised with bleach. There was not much more they could do and he felt there were no safety issues. Rob Yongs plans have not yet materialised and until they do nothing is planned in the way of improvement to the pavilion.

Cllr B Griffin insisted that in his opinion the sanitary provisions in the pavilion were disgusting and anywhere else would be unacceptable in their current state. He felt something should be done. TC agreed to re-assess the drainage problem. SW suggested it could require a 'breather' test?? Cllr B Griffin suggested that the showers be taken out as that could be responsible for the stale drainage smell.

TC said Broxtowe had only gained responsibility of the parks in the last two years and a lot of improvements had been made during this time. He was sorry that we aren't entirely happy. The pavilion he said was no worse now than it had been for years under Eastwood Town Council.

Cllr J Forrest said that the top flower bed had been stripped after the summer and was now unsightly. She said she accepted that the reason was probably because of the new Police station and to avoid wastage of funds. She added that as the Police station would probably not be finished this year that there could have been some grass seeds placed in the bed so that come the spring it could be mowed. TC agreed that the time frame

of the Police station was the reason for the bed not being replanted last year.

TC said there were three capital funding bids in process and if all bids were successful it would mean a total of £150k would be spent on the children's play area. In the basketball area a multi purpose area would also be provided. £60k was via an application to Play Builder; £40k via WREN and a Capital Programme for £50k. (Sect 106 allocation) The categories for using the facilities were 0 – 4, 5 – 10 and teenagers. TC said he had contacted the police for their comments/opinions and it is felt that the play equipment would help lower anti-social behaviour.

Eastwood Cemetery- TC said the Chapel issue was still un-resolved. SW said the main driveway was a concern with the pot-holes and the action to close the top gate had proven to be a positive one.

Dog fouling – it was suggested that we contact Deborah Duckworth the neighbourhood warden at Broxtowe.

Final comment from TC was Broxtowe were proud of the service they provide.

The Town Clerk reported that an attendant will be appointed to man the recreation ground. Tenders had gone out with previous company having not tendered. TUPE may apply.

Cllr R Dodge reported that the comment about the state of the pavilion was the same as Eastwood Town Council had controlled. It has never been under Eastwood Town Council control; I have read the lease that goes back over 30 years that it was a capital project that belonged to Broxtowe. Eastwood TC controlled the landscape with Broxtowe BC owning the buildings.

Summary -Cllr B Griffin felt meeting was helpful, allowed us to put Eastwood Town concerns, quite comprehensive. We wait for TC to report back about the drainage issues.

LM25/10

Eastwood War Memorial

Town clerk had handed an email request from Juliette Sunderland Notts CC Building Better Communities Officer re Eastwood War Memorial to the meeting.

Cllr R Dodge reported that under the Local Government Act 1926 followed by War Memorial Act 1947, local authorities are responsible for War Memorials. We are the local authority and are responsible for Eastwood War Memorial.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that Town Clerk organise a meeting with Juliette Sunderland Notts CC Building Better Communities Officer, **as soon as possible** and inform members of the date of the meeting.

LM26/10 **2010 East Midlands in Bloom Campaign**

Town Clerk reported he had received an invitation to enter the East Midland in Bloom Campaign. It was decided to reject the invitation for this year.

LM27/10 **Eastwood Town Council Notice boards**

It was decided to leave this issue until it is clear where the new Eastwood Town Council offices are to be located.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm. This concluded the meeting. There being no further business Cllr B Griffin thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.