

Minutes of a meeting of the **Recreational & Cemetery Committee** of Bingham Town Council held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 26th May, 2009**, at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillor	P. Abbey
"	Mrs. A. Bryan
"	R. Barnett
"	F. Kerry
"	A. Shelton
"	Mrs. M. Stockwood

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest received.

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies for absence received.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

It was **Proposed** by Councillor Mrs. M. Stockwood, **Seconded** by Councillor Shelton, and

RESOLVED that Councillor Kerry be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

It was **Proposed** by Councillor Mrs. M. Stockwood, **Seconded** by Councillor Shelton, and

RESOLVED that Councillor Barnett be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Butt Field Working Group

Councillor	R. Barnett
"	F. Kerry

Councillor	A. Shelton
"	Mrs. M. Stockwood

1.00 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March, 2009, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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2.00 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (For information):

01 20/20 Cricket Tournament

Ten tickets for a Pro 40 match at Trent Bridge on the 29th August, 2009, had been received. It had been agreed that these would be offered as prizes at the Town Fair on the 13th June, 2009.

02 Directional Sign Request – Butt Field Pavilion

The request for direction signs was still outstanding. Councillor Mrs. Stockwood suggested that a follow-up letter was required, drawing Nottinghamshire County Council's attention to the potential scenario if emergency services needed to find the Pavilion. A postcode for the new Pavilion was also required.

3.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PLAYINGFIELDS, PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES, INCLUDING BUTT FIELD:

It was agreed that Item 3.03 – Dog Signs on Play Areas – would be brought forward.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow representations from Dylan Marksman and Anita Farr-Varley, members of Bingham Dog Owners' Group (BDOG), and Steve McRobie from Bingham Town Youth Football Club.

Councillor Mrs. M. Stockwood said there was a need to agree on an appropriate solution which would satisfy the needs of the whole community.

Mr. Marksman made the following points:-

03 Dog Signs on Play Areas:

- ❖ Dogs on Leads - There had been no consultation with the dog owners regarding this issue, and it would have no effect on irresponsible owners. The only impact would be on responsible people. It had caused a great deal of anxiety amongst elderly and disabled people.
- ❖ Advice on toxocariasis had been sought. The main carriers of the disease are foxes. The risk of infection is low – it can be transmitted only through ingestion, not through the skin, and there was more likelihood of infection through own pets, e.g. cats, than through dogs.
- ❖ The B.D.O.G. was looking for an agreement that toxocariasis is not the root cause of the problem.

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3.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PLAYINGFIELDS, PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES, INCLUDING BUTT FIELD continued.....

03 Dog Signs on Play Areas continued.....

- ❖ There was a need to concentrate on the specific cause of the problem as Wynhill and Butt Field are both public open spaces for use by the whole community.
- ❖ There is a public footpath through Butt Field. The problem of irresponsible dog owners is not limited to play areas.
- ❖ The B.D.O.G. was willing to support Bingham Town Council in controlling and policing the problem.

Mr. Purdue-Horan responded by making the following points:-

- ❖ It was a pity that the perception was that the Town Council is against dog owners. The purpose of the signs was to allow grass to thrive in the new Butt Field extension.
- ❖ There is a growing problem of younger people allowing their dogs to foul. The Town Council has a responsibility as a Quality Council to the wider public to ensure that incidents do not occur.
- ❖ The Town Council has public liability – there is a need to clarify who would be responsible for an incident on public open spaces in Bingham.
- ❖ The Town Council took advice from Rushcliffe Borough Council's Environmental Health Department regarding signage.

Mrs. Farr-Varley made the following points:-

- ❖ A petition had been organised which, to date, had already received 227 signatures.
- ❖ Dogs need to be off-lead for training and socialising purposes.
- ❖ Butt Field is the only location in Bingham where mobility-impaired dog owners can exercise their dogs. (There had been instances of intimidation against vulnerable dog owners).
- ❖ The Dog Warden did not advise, and would not enforce, signs. He had never been called out to a situation where a dog had been out of control. A survey had been carried out by B.D.O.G. who had found that there were more dogs on the field than sports people.

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Minutes of a meeting of the **Recreational & Cemetery Committee** of Bingham Town Council held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 26th May, 2009**, at **7.00 p.m.** continued.....

3.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PLAYINGFIELDS, PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES, INCLUDING BUTT FIELD continued.....

03 Dog Signs on Play Areas continued.....

- ❖ At the outset, there should have been a sign saying 'No Dogs on New Pitch'. People think as it is public land, there should be a right of way.
- ❖ With regard to litter problem, the sports clubs are making an effort to litter-pick.
- ❖ Car-users on the access track to Butt Field are unaware that people are walking along it and are driving too fast.

Possible Solutions:

- ❖ Dog-owners would like the signs removed. The B.D.O.G. proposes to police Butt Field, clean up and keep a rota for monitoring and reporting.
- ❖ Free dog bags are great. Could the service be extended to local shops/businesses?
- ❖ Dog owners should act responsibly when sports matches are taking place.
- ❖ Adequate signage needed on the new pitches.
- ❖ A small barrier on the Butt Field side would be an advantage.
- ❖ Speed limit signage needed on bridle path to show use by walkers/horses.
- ❖ Dog-walkers are very frequent users and a good deterrent for criminal activity.
- ❖ B.D.O.G. intends to raise money through dog registration to support the Town Council.
- ❖ Recycling bins could be utilised at Butt Field.

Steve McRobie mentioned that access to the new pitch and training area would be controlled. Signs adjacent to the new pitches had already been taken down. Could they be replaced? He was looking forward to working in partnership with both the Town Council and B.D.O.G.

Councillor Mrs. Stockwood pointed out that there had been a problem which had been addressed by the Town Council in response to a call from the Clubs. She was pleased that progress is being made and that groups are working together.

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3.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PLAYINGFIELDS, PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES, INCLUDING BUTT FIELD continued.....

03 Dog Signs on Play Areas continued.....

Mr. Marksman reported that the dog group had shown a commitment to police the problem and was looking for support from the Town Council in order to work together. He asked if the Town Council would be willing to pursue Dog Control Orders.

The Chairman welcomed progress and reported that legal advice needed to be taken on the last question. This would be discussed through the Town Council.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

01 Butt Field Project

(a) Wind Turbine

The planning application for the wind turbine was due to be resubmitted in the near future.

(b) Contract Variations and Update on Contract

The Town Council is awaiting monies in respect of contaminated land and details from the architect in relation to the current financial status.

An additional meeting was required to discuss funding.

It was

RECOMMENDED that this should be progressed as soon as possible, subject to information being received from the architect and being within the budget.

02 Play Area on 'Bird Estate' – "Wallenfels" - Quotations

It was

RECOMMENDED that presentations should be received from all companies quoting for the work.

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4.00 MATTERS RELATING TO CEMETERY:

- 01 A letter had been received regarding Health & Safety on memorials which is to be copied to all Councillors for information.

5.00 CORRESPONDENCE:

01 Allotments – Hill Drive

Several letters had been received on the subject of vandalism at Hill Drive allotments.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mrs. Costello to speak on the matter.

It was agreed that Councillors Kerry and Barnett would research the cost of providing new signs and locks.

A letter would be sent to all tenants, requesting them to ensure the access gates were locked.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

02 Allotments – New Plots

Three letters had been received regarding the provision of new replacement allotments. Unfortunately, there was no further progress to report on the matter.

03 B.R.U.F.C.

A letter had been received regarding East Midlands Regional Off-Road Model Car Racing at Wynhill. Noted and confirmation required of numbers attending.

- 04 A letter had been received regarding availability of land at the former allotment site at Moor Lane. No further progress to report regarding site.

- 05 Notification received of Playground Inspection Training on the 23rd June, 2009. Noted.

- 06 Friends of Bingham Linear Park A.G.M. Minutes. Noted

Continued...../

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6.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT BUSINESS, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.”

The following matters were discussed:-

- 01 ALLOTMENTS**
- 02 COGLEY LANE FENCING**

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date: