



Stony Stratford Town Council

## NOTICE OF

# PROJECTS COMMITTEE

at Russell St School, Russell St, Stony Stratford  
Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at 7pm

## PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Followed by

## AGENDA

- 1 To elect a Chairman of the committee.
- 2 To hear any declarations of interest.
- 3 To receive any apologies for absence.
- 4 To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009, as attached
- 5 To recommend terms of reference for 2009/10 to Full Council *attached*
- 6 ALLOTMENTS  
- to consider a request to keep bees on an allotment plot on the Wolverton Rd *attached site*
- 7 STONY IN BLOOM  
- to note the latest financial position for the project *attached*  
- to approve the watering contract for 2009
- 8 PLAY AREAS  
- to note the award from the Play Area Improvement Scheme *attached*  
- to respond to the Playbuilder questionnaire

*Dated 27 May 2009*

*Charles Brindley, Clerk*



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Stony Stratford Town Council

# PROJECTS COMMITTEE MINUTES 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 7.00pm at Russell St School

PRESENT: Cllrs Judy Deveson, Adrian Dnes, Richard Skellington (in the chair), Deryck Tucker and Joan Walker. The clerk Charles Brindley was in attendance.

- J24/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
- J25/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for absence.
- J26/09 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2009: The minutes of the meeting were **AGREED as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman (DT/AD)**.
- J27/09 ALLOTMENTS: The rent for the Wolverton Rd site for the rent year starting 1 October 2009 was considered. It was **AGREED that the rent would remain at the same level as current, namely £3/pole**.
- J28/09 LONDON RD ALLOTMENT SITE: As the current lease expires in September 2010, it was **AGREED that a review of the use of the property should be undertaken and therefore, the committee is recommending to full council that a working group should be established to consider all possibilities for the use of the land prior to entering into any new legal agreements in 2010**.
- J29/09 STONY IN BLOOM: The report was **NOTED**. Additionally, Cllr Deveson updated members on progress with the sensory garden at Hale Ave, the Augustus Rd/Calverton Rd gardens, the polytunnel and the bluebell wood.
- J30/09 BURIAL PROVISION: The committee considered the email correspondence received. A debate ensued that highlighted the need to properly establish the actual requirement for burial land. It was concluded that at this time, the committee **SUPPORTED the need to push this forward by conducting a walkabout of potential sites and the preparation of a feasibility study by MKC, and that the London Rd allotment site should be considered in any study that is undertaken**.
- J31/09 PLAY AREAS: The report was **NOTED**.

*There being no further advertised business, Chairman closed the meeting at 19.42*



Stony Stratford Town Council

**Allotments**

**June Projects  
item 6**

**Agenda**

A verbal request has been received from a plot holder on the Wolverton Rd allotment site about whether it would be allowable to keep bees on the site.

From a legal point of view, there is nothing that forbids the keeping of bees on an allotment site provided that the majority of the plot remains in cultivation.

The Council's Terms and Conditions state at para 4(xvi) that 'The tenant shall not keep chickens or any other livestock or honeybees, on the allotment without the written consent of the council.'

The following advice has been received from MKC:

*No licence for bee keeping is required in the UK and there is no reason why bees cannot be kept on allotments, but:*

- 1. The secretary of the allotment society to ask all allotment holders if this is ok*
- 2. If they agree, will have to prove that they are covered by insurance to the amount the council require*
- 3. Keeper to be competent at keeping bees or under supervision of someone experienced*
- 4. It is advisable to open bees when allotment holders are least likely to be there to avoid problems.*
- 5. Set hives away from gardeners and have an obstacle in front (tree, fence, hedge) to encourage bees to fly high.*
- 6. Allotment manager may want to be assured that any problems caused by the bees in their absence will be resolved?*
- 7. Allotment Managers should be responsible for policing the conditions on which bees are permitted on allotments.*

*There is no reason why they can't keep bees as long as they adhere to the allotment rules you have in place and any other conditions you require them to stick to.*

Bee keeping on allotments is becoming more popular as the plight of the bee is recognised. They also provide valuable pollination for all allotment holders.

We are not the first council in Milton Keynes to be faced with this request. Similar requests have been considered by Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe and Stantonbury Parish Councils. In both cases, approval has been granted with conditions put in place to cover points made in the advice received from MKC.

You are asked to **CONSIDER granting permission to the plot holder to keep a hive of bees on the plot with the following conditions being met before a hive is placed on the site:**

- 1. The plot holder will confirm in writing that he has consulted with all other plot holders on the site and that there have been no concerns raised.**

2. The plotholder will confirm in writing that he has insurance cover in place specifically covering the keeping of bees.
3. The plotholder will confirm in writing that either he is an experienced or qualified beekeeper. Qualifications should be recognised by the British Beekeepers Association.
4. The hive will be located such that it will cause minimal inconvenience to neighbouring plotholders and its location and any screening will be agreed with the clerk before installation.

*Charles Brindley*  
27 May 09





Stony Stratford Town Council

**Stony In Bloom**

**June Projects  
item 7**

**Agenda**

Finance

The current position is as follows:

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
Income	0	1432.50	
1432.50			
Expenditure	8988	983	(8005)
Net Expenditure	8988	(449.50)	9437.50

You are asked to **NOTE the financial position with the project**

Watering Contract

Watering of the floral displays and features in 2008 was undertaken on a voluntary basis by Ray Cobley using a bowser purchased for the project and a standpipe licence.

For the 2009 season, the intention has been to contract out the watering activity using the council owned bowser and again providing the standpipe licence. Effectively, this means contracting the labour and a towing vehicle.

In late February, notices were posted around the town seeking expressions of interest for the above. Additionally, known local landscapers were made aware of the work. Two individuals came forward expressing an interest. Through discussions however, it became clear that there was only one individual who was interested enough to want to undertake the works.

An agreement has been reached with the individual to pay £120/week for the watering and feeding of the floral displays and baskets for a maximum of a 20 week season. This represents good value to the council as it is estimated that 10 hours per week will be required to undertake the work. The budgeted figure within the Stony In Bloom project 2009 for watering is £2500.

A letter of understanding will be prepared to outline the agreement, and it will also cover insurance requirements, invoicing details and the scope of the works.

You are asked to **CONSIDER the above and authorise entry into an agreement with the individual.**

*Charles Brindley*  
27 May 09



Stony Stratford Town Council

## Play Areas

## June Projects

## Agenda item 8

You will recall that as part of the budget 2009/10, it was agreed that a bid would be made to the MKC Play Area Improvement Scheme for £2750 towards the cost of a refurbishment of the Ousebank Way Play Area.

I have now been formally notified that the bid has been successful. I am therefore meeting with MKC Play Area Officer, Katie Warlosz, on 3 June to discuss amongst other things, the Wren application for this project.

I have had two complaints about the the condition of the play area in the park between Latimer and Milford Ave and I am aware that some basic maintenance work will be undertaken by MKC on that area. This could be the subject of a refurbishment in the future.

Cllrs Mehmood and O'Sullivan have met with the Play Area Officer in Galley Hill to discuss play provision as a whole in Galley Hill. The suggestion made is that play is focussed on the Clailey Court play area which requires a complete refurbishment. MKC are suggesting making a bid to the Biffa Awards scheme to fund; this is likely to require an element of funding from this Council although the level is unknown at this time. This could well become an item for budget consideration in 2010/11 and will be discussed in more detail when I meet the Play Area Officer on 3 June.

You are asked to **NOTE the above**

You will recall that I advised at the May meeting that Milton Keynes had been awarded £1 million through the national Playbuilder scheme to refurbish 22 play areas in the borough over the next two years. I further advised that the Spider Park in Fullers Slade would be one of those areas to benefit. Please find attached a copy of the Playbuilder program for MK for your information.

Additionally, there is a short questionnaire that you have been asked to complete.

You are asked to **AGREE a response to the Playbuilder questionnaire**

*Charles Brindley*  
27 May 09



