

# Marlborough Town Council



## Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held  
Wednesday, 3 April 2023 in the Council Chamber, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor Donald Heath	Chair
	Councillor James Sheppard	
	Councillor Caroline Thomas	
	Councillor Mark Cooper	
	Councillor Mark Luson	
<b>ALSO</b>		
<b>PRESENT</b>	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk

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### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**316/22 APOLOGIES**  
Apologies for absence were received from the **Town Mayor** and **Councillor Barrett-Morton**, and **Fogg**.

**317/22 DECLARATIONS**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**318/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
The Chair made the committee aware of two leaflets for the new nature trail walks.

**319/22 MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 1 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair

**320/22 ACTION LOG**  
Members noted the updated action log.

**RESOLVED:** for the Town Clerk to work with the grounds manager to install clearer and more positively instructional signs in Coopers Meadow regarding the nesting season, and that dogs must be on leads; and more positively instructional signs in the paddock to protect the sheep.

**321/22      GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Grounds Manager's Report.

**322/22      ASH DIEBACK REPORT**

It was noted that the cut wood created from felling trees could be offset against the cost of the tree works in any contractual negotiations.

**323/22      LONDON ROAD WAR MEMORIAL**

**RESOLVED** to support the Grounds Managers plan for replanting the roses at the London Road War Memorial

**324/22      NEW CEMETERY**

The Committee considered the matters raised in the Town Clerk's report and how best to progress this project, including:

- Whether to a referendum would be needed regarding swapping the land at Marlborough Common, and that this should be done only once the Council is in ownership of the land at Rabley View  
That if it is required to put the 'vote' to the 'commoners' that this should be managed so that only residents of the parish should have a vote, and that therefore this would need to be managed as an 'election' so votes are issued and tracked
- Whether there are any conditions on the land at Rabley View/ Tin Pits
- Whether a DEFRA application would be needed for the cemetery development
- That significant funds (circa £40k) would be needed to invest in the preparatory stages of this project, and this should only be done once it was clear and agreed that the chosen land site was supported and an option
- it was recognised that further work was needed to clarify what the full project entailed and the implications for the Council

**RESOLVED** as next steps for the Town Clerk to check with:

- i. WC Elections regarding holding a referendum on the land swap of common land and the costs involved
- ii. DEFRA the statutory requirement to consult on any possible land swap involving common land
- iii. Land registry/GreenSquare Accord the status or possible conditions of the land at Rabley View/ Tin Pits

**325/22      RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

There was a discussion about the way the risks were listed and it was suggested that these could be made clearer and rationalised. It was considered the latest version was an improvement on the previous document.

**326/22      WYE HOUSE GARDEN**

The draft tender document was considered.

**RESOLVED** that the draft tender be used, and for the Town Clerk to advertise it ASAP with the following amendments, to add a separate specification points:

- ' to include a crown shape shelter that encourages creative play'
- ' to include robust and simple bench seating'
- ' to include some provision for border planting'

Also to remove the specific point referring to the elderly (as it was noted that the Wye House Gardens already catered for this demographic group)

**327/22 CEMETERY REPORT**

Members noted the Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial that had been issued, and Memorial and Inscription Applications that had been approved.

**328/22 ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Lusson gave an update on the Allotments Association and allotments, notable that assistance had been offered to some allotment holders to tidy their plots and that this had encouraged these to be improved.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed: .....  
Chair

Date: .....