

artwork and printing of the leaflets, the current price received being considerably over the budget available for this work. This matter to be deferred until the next meeting.

1.2.5 To consider suitable tree species – to commemorate Royal Wedding

Cllr Wellington who was not present at the meeting had advised the Clerk that in his view a suitable tree species for planting on an open space area at the Lake to commemorate the imminent Royal Wedding would be a “Handkerchief Tree” which it was understood to be a favourite of Prince William’s Great Grandmother. This was unanimously agreed.

1.2.6 Any Other Business

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received that day from Great Oaks Hospice who wanted to place a large notice in the town or banner advertising their forthcoming fete. It was agreed to refer the matter to County Highways and to the property owners on whose buildings such a banner would hang in Broad Street.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 9.40 pm.

A long discussion ensued on the performance of the Contractor. Cllr Lawton believed the problem lay with the Contractor and that he either carried out the contract to the Council's satisfaction or he defaulted. Some Members believed he was using the wrong type of equipment, however it was pointed out that gang-mowers should be used in the Contract.

Cllr Lawton proposed that the Committee adhere to the Contract and that the Contractor works within it or he defaults. This was seconded by Cllr Wood.

Cllr Blick proposed an amendment that the Committee employ local Contractor Glebe Contractors to undertake the cut in the Arboretum at the price quoted in their original quotation for the contract using a flail mower if necessary, on this occasion, and that the present contractor be asked to resume the contract afterwards once the grass was cut to a reasonable level. This was seconded by Cllr Beard. Cllr Mrs Draper asked for clarification that the cost implications of this was that the present Contractor would not be paid on this occasion. This was confirmed as being so. A vote was taken on the amendment resulting in 4 in favour, 2 against. The amendment was carried and therefore became the substantive motion which was voted upon, resulting in 4 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

1.2.2 Tree management in Arboretum

Cllr Wellington who was not present at the meeting had produced a quotation for the thinning of trees in the Arboretum. In view of the fact that he was not able to speak to this matter, the uncertainty of the birds nesting at this time of year and the requirement for further quotations for this work it was agreed to defer this matter until further information was known.

1.2.3 Changing Rooms maintenance

Cllr Wood declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and refrained from discussion or voting. He asked another Member to take the Chair whilst this matter was under discussion. It was agreed that Cllr Lawton take the Chair.

The Forman advised that the estimated price quoted in previous minutes to undertake a guard for the boilers was insufficient at £150 and that a price had been obtained in the sum of £280. It was agreed that the quotation be accepted and that the estimate for raising of the roof of the annexe to the Changing rooms be firmed up by quotation for discussion at the next meeting. The Clerk advised that the budget for the Changing Rooms maintenance had been accrued from last year's accounts to cover this work.

1.2.4 Renewal of Town leaflets

The Clerk advised that Cllr Street who was not present at the meeting had contacted her that day to advise he was trying to re-negotiate the price for the

A risk assessment and copy of public liability insurance was provided. Members agreed to this event, subject to the use of plastic glasses and the clearance of litter after the event. The event to take place between the hours of 2 pm. and 7 pm.

1.2 Business

1.2.1 Foreman's Work report

The Foreman advised he had recently visited a Fishery to look at a paddle aerator and demonstrated the workings of the machine to Members by way of video footage taken on his camera. There was some concern expressed with regard to the level of noise and to the ferocity of the watersplash which may lead to bank erosion. Cllr Lawton spoke in favour of the possibility of a mushroom aerator or a fountain. The Foreman advised he had sourced a fountain suitable for the Lake but its price was nearing £3000. Cllr Beard had reservations regarding the mushroom aerator as he believed it would not work well because of the level of silt in the water. He questioned at what depths it would operate. It was ultimately agreed that a demonstration be asked for the mushroom aerator to clarify the effectiveness of it. It was also agreed to look at the manufacture of a guard on the existing machine so that it could be operational in the meantime.

The Foreman advised that he believed the litterpicking undertaken by Forest Equipment Services on the Recreation Ground and Lake area at weekends was not being undertaken satisfactorily despite several verbal concerns with the Contractor. It was agreed to put the matter to the Contractor in writing and if the situation did not improve to withhold payment.

The Foreman reminded those who had agreed to form a sub-committee regarding the Christmas lights that a meeting needed to take place soon to progress matters. It was agreed that Cllrs Pilkington and Mrs Draper would meet with the Foreman on 28 April to do so. Cllr Lawton also part of the sub-committee would join discussions following the elections in May.

Cllr Blick advised that it had come to his notice the Council's boat was very heavy for the Council staff to manoeuvre and he proposed that consideration be given to purchasing a trailer for it. This matter to be raised at the next meeting.

The Foreman raised the on-going problems with the grass cutting contract. It was proposed that this contractual matter be discussed in Committee under Standing Order 66. However this was not agreed.

The Foreman advised the first cut of the season had taken place in the Arboretum that day and had been completed unsatisfactorily. The Contractor had argued he was unable to attain a good cut as the grass was far too long and should have been cut before this date, however he was complying with the number of cuts stipulated within the contract. The Foreman said he had measured the grass himself and in places it was twelve inches long.

1.1.2 Newent & District Choral Society – request to site a memorial seat in Newent Arboretum

Members considered a request to site a memorial seat in the Arboretum. It was acknowledged that there were already a number of benches/seats in the Arboretum and before conceding to the request for a further bench, and in a preferred location, it was agreed that an audit would be undertaken of the existing benches to clarify the need for further ones. Cllrs Parsons, Wellington and Beard together with the Foreman to make an inspection and to advise the Choral Society of its acceptance or otherwise of a further seat, depending on their findings.

1.1.3 Mr N Bateson – request to site a memorial seat in Newent Arboretum

As above

1.1.4 Newent Transition – request to hold monthly Market under Market House

Request from Newent Transition to hold a monthly Market under the Market House from May until October. They had submitted a paper outlining their proposals which accompanied their request. Members considered the proposal and noted they were not a charitable organisation which implied the matter should be considered on a commercial basis. This brought into question the sale of their goods in competition with other traders and the charges that should be made. Members concurred that they wanted to have further information about the market ie how many stalls were envisaged, what exactly would be sold.

Cllr Lawton proposed that the Committee should not be against the idea providing it is undertaken on a commercial basis as their information confirmed they were not a charity.

Cllr Wood spoke against the market and proposed that the Committee does not grant the request. Cllr Beard proposed an amendment the Committee does not grant a request until it is better informed with more detail of what is being proposed. This was seconded by Cllr Lawton and a vote taken resulting in 5 in favour, 1 against. The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion which was voted upon and resulted in 5 in favour, 1 against.

1.1.5 Newent Rugby Club – request to hold BBQ/Bar at Recreation Ground

Cllr Parsons declared a personal interest

Request from the Rugby Club to hold a BBQ/Bar at the Recreation Ground on 23rd April. John Moore Secretary of the Club had advised that Mr Warder from the Red Lion would supply the bar and would hold the licence for such.

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee held on Monday 18 April 2011 at the Market House, Newent at 8.15 pm.

Present: Cllr E Wood (Deputy Chair) Cllr D Blick, Cllr W Offord, Cllr T Parsons, Cllr Mrs K Draper, Cllr R Beard, Cllr L Lawton,

Apologies: Cllr B Wellington, Cllr P Street

1.00 In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman took the Chair

1.1.0 Correspondence

1.1.1 Newent Allotment Association – various

Cllr Blick declared a personal interest in this matter.

1. The Committee enquired if the Council would like to use the facility of the Allotment Association for the collection of fees.

Members considered this offer but felt that the present arrangement whereby tenants of the Allotments paid their fees direct to the Council should continue.

2. Would the Council please give some clarification on the use of weed killer. It appears that a spray has been used by an allotment holder and this has killed the grass on the path.

Members agreed that a weed wipe should be used to avoid the drift of spray. The Foreman advised that it was his understanding that in this instance an allotment holder had paid someone else to weed their plot which he believed was illegal if the person applying the spray did not hold a relevant weed killing spray qualification.

3. It has come to their notice that the Council has a lot of interlocking plastic trays which has not been used for a long time and it is felt that these would be ideal for the laying on the most heavily used paths.

Members agreed to this course of action, the Allotment holders to fit at the end of the season.

4. With regard to the proposal by Biffa to charge £36.00 per year for wheelie bins, would the charge be passed on to the allotment holders?

Members agreed that this would be so.