

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Parks Committee
Held on Tuesday 30 November 2011

Present:- Cllrs. W. Jefferson, G. Wilkinson & S. Graham. Also Ken Wannop and Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk).

894 **Apologies:-**
Cllrs. M. Snaith & A.J. Markley.

895 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

896 **Skinburness Area - overgrown area**
Following complaints by a resident about how overgrown the area is, the Town Council wrote to Brian Irving for his advice on what could be done. It was questioned whether it was anti-social behaviour that is the problem or is it that the area is needing tidied up. It is not a massive job to get done but futile to get volunteers in because it would involve using machinery. Ken suggested that the guy from Kirkbride be asked for a price to take the top off and also hire in a chipper. Leave Pines and gorse but take out other shrubs. It would be best to tackle the job now when nothing is growing. It was agreed to decline the offer from AONB.

897 **Solway Community Technology College - Grounds Maintenance**
From Feb to Nov 2011 - 461 hours have been spent doing the maintenance of the school grounds which equates to approx £8200. Also used 20 ton topsoil £500, 10lt herbicide £100, 1 ton of fertiliser £450 and moss spray £300. Also running costs of machinery to take into account. Income from the job is £6850 for the year.
The Town Council took a man on to do the job. Probably need more in the region of £15k to cover the costs properly. Town Council provide a better service. If taking toilets on under the Green Project, then there may be money coming in to do that. Contract will probably be up again in February. The County Council had put a price in of nearer £14k which is probably nearer the right figure. The Town Council are providing more of a service to the community than a profitable business. There is no way that we can recover the full costs but direct costs need to be in the region of £10k and needs to be nearer that figure than the £6850 currently charged.

898 **Budget 2012/13 - Equipment Requirements**
Need a replacement set of gang mowers. The current ones are 11 years old and need new cylinders and refurbished which would cost approx. £3k. If they are to be refurbished then they need done before next season. Ken to obtain prices to refurbish the existing ones.

899 **Handyman's Report**
There will be a new part-time Parks Warden but it was questioned what he will be doing. Part of the lottery bid is to create employment. It was questioned what he would be doing especially in the winter. The main responsibility of the Parks Warden will be for the toilets which are part of the undertaking. There will be less work if the Town Council do not have the school contract to do. There needs to be flexibility.

900 **The Silloth Green Project**
It was questioned what the provision there is in the HLF bid for paths. There is a 12 month guarantee period. The surface is not adequate and comments have been made by the public. Jason Dixey has been getting prices to get them resin coated to provide a lasting surface. The committee registers its concern about the situation regarding the paths. It is imperative that the

paths are in good order before the guarantee period expires.

Training - It was questioned whether staff have got the necessary training to assess the safety of such as the Go-Ape equipment. There is a training plan in place but it will need to be tapped into to before the work is finished and the Green is re-opened.

Memorial Benches - Part of the scheme was to replace a lot of the seating. One of the memorial seats was removed and damaged by the contractors despite only being there for 18 months which has caused some upset to the family involved. However the matter has been resolved and the contractors have agreed to reimburse the family for the cost of the seat.

Putting Green - the last Plan in the Buzz was in January when the Putting Green was to be sited opposite the Rafa Club. Now that it is to be sited opposite Lawn Terrace there have been a few complaints from residents.

Ken suggested that the existing fencing around Paddling Pool be used to block down each side to the entrance of the new toilet block to stop people entering the grounds maintenance yard.

Signed..... Date.....