

## WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Waterbeach Parish Council held on 21 October 2014 at 8.00 p.m. at the Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

*The purpose of this meeting was to meet with representatives of Urban and Civic solely to discuss short-term issues of access and maintenance in connection with the former barracks site now managed by them.*

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Howlett and M Williamson

#### NOT PRESENT

Cllrs Rabbett, Shipp, Smart

#### 14/79 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr J Williamson is a trustee of the Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey

All councillors present had an interest in bringing facilities at the former barracks site back into use but none present had a pecuniary interest.

#### 14/80 ACCESS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES AT FORMER BARRACKS SITE

It was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the meeting to allow the representatives of Urban and Civic (U&C) as well as members of the public present to contribute to the discussion.

U&C now have a signed contract and keys to the site. They are still trying to understand the options and strong desires of the village residents.

It is intended that from this meeting, agreement should be reached as to who they should deal with over the various areas of concern and interest. It is their intention to produce an action plan which will be regularly updated and circulated.

It was agreed that U&C would provide a site plan showing the various areas and facilities listed below.

**For all items below where access to the site is to be arranged, a protocol of some kind regarding access routes, security passes and parking will need to be worked**

**out.** An ecological survey would need to be carried out (probably in May/June) as part of this process, to identify areas that need to be protected. There would also need to be a tree survey.

**a) Memorial Garden**

The Military Museum Committee are interested in being involved. The location is a challenge as is access. It clearly needs some attention having not been maintained since March 2013. Its importance is clearly understood. We need to also understand whether or not its current location is the best place for it in the longer term assuming we want it to be possible for groups to visit. (see also point g below).

It was agreed that the following people be involved in this working group:-  
Cllrs Adrian Wright, Jane Williamson and Brenda Johnson. Major Hornby should also be asked to join them.

**b) Golf course**

After some discussion it became clear that it would not be viable to bring this back into use as it would cost at least £100k, half of which cost would need to be funded by the community and yet the course might only be available for a very limited number of years.

**c) Fishing at the lake**

It should be possible to bring the lakes back into use for fishing despite the fact that many fish had been removed. Cllr P Johnson, who is a member of Waterbeach Angling Club, will liaise with U&C regarding this.

**d) Museum**

This was started in 1968 and was situated to the left of the main gate. The artefacts (from both RAF & Engineers) have been removed and stored. It might be possible to reinstate it in its old location and have access from the cemetery drive. Perhaps someone from the community might agree to staff it once a week.

Working party: Cllr Wright and ask Mr Oliver Merrington.

**e) Swimming pool**

Sadly the swimming pool is completely wrecked and there is no way that it could be brought back into use. Those present suggested they would like to see a pool included in any plans for a new development.

**f) Pitches and courts**

(Hangars were also discussed under this heading.)

The squash courts are in a decent state. There are a few leaks but these are repairable. U&C will look at bringing these back into use. Once repaired, their availability could be publicised via the parish noticeboards and Facebook page.

The Control Tower is likely to become the U&C office. They are currently using the guard house.

The Cinema was mentioned. U&C were not aware of its existence so they will investigate.

Hangar 43 is enormous and is thought to be a great potential location for a sports complex. U&C spoke about similar conversions having been done elsewhere – (e.g. an old hangar at Hatfield is now a David Lloyd Centre). U&C are definitely interested in exploring this. The reinstatement costs will need to be understood as well as what competition there is, if any, in the area.  
Working party: Cllr Brian Williams, Mr Michael Bavester.

U&C acknowledged that they are of course interested in any temporary revenue streams. The gymnasium is not in a bad state and there is also an assault course, both of which might be looked at in this context.

**g) Maintenance of the approach to the cemetery including trees**

U&C staff had already met with Cllrs P Johnson and K Grant to discuss these issues. A list of trees requiring work has been prepared and U&C would like to confirm with the Parish Council before work begins (on 3 November) that they are not proposing to do work on any trees that are not their responsibility.

The Parish Clerk will also be discussing the question of an extension to the cemetery with representatives of U&C.

It might be appropriate to consider relocation of the memorial garden within such an extension or perhaps on the open space at the front of the barracks as this would be more accessible for residents to visit.

**h) 19<sup>th</sup> Century well head**

This was restored fairly recently and it has connections with the history of the families that farmed the area so it would be good if it could be preserved. It is beside the Old Causeway (see i below)

**i) Potential reinstatement of footpath to Denny Abbey**

U&C stated that this was an important part of their submission to the MOD and they are very keen to work on this, despite the fact that much of it is now concreted over.

It was agreed generally that this was a constructive start to discussions and that it would be important to keep the energy up and the discussion going. As mentioned above U&C intend to produce an action plan which will be regularly updated and circulated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 pm

**Chairman**