

Those present:

Cllr Hawes (Chairman)
Cllr. Ferneyhough
Cllr. Goldie
Cllr Rogers
Andrew Eastham – Non-voting member
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence; all Committee Members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ferneyhough declared a personal interest as follows:

- Membership of Tollesbury Sailing Club

Cllr Goldie declared a personal interest as follows:

- Owner of Tollesbury Marina

Andrew Eastham declared a personal interest as follows:

- Membership of Tollesbury Sailing Club
- Mr Eastham works for Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust (FACT) and is a director for Tollesbury Saltings.

3. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the Woodup Pool Committee Meeting held on 18th March 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

Update on actions from the previous meeting:

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with the Risk Assessor, who advised that it was not necessary to have the water tested outside the season when the pool may be used by cold-water swimmers.

Mr Eastham looked at options for the depth markers, which will be discussed under agenda item 7.3.

The Chairman confirmed that the “Bathe at Your Own Risk” had been removed.

The Clerk confirmed that the toilets had been booked for the season.

Agenda item 8 will discuss the proposed dates for the sea scouts' use of Woodup Pool.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Brightlingsea Lido and was advised that dredging is carried out every 1-2 years. It is carried out by Colne Maintenance Dredging Ltd. Although they dredge, they do not dredge the actual pool.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

5. Earmarked Reserves

The Committee reviewed the Earmarked Reserves.

Action: Clerk to separate the £2,000 set aside for sluice gate/weed control maintenance (£1,000 for each item).

Action: Clerk to allocate £1,000 from the Woodup Pool Event to the sluice gate.

6. Woodup Pool Information Event

The Chairman reported there was a good turnout at the Woodup Pool event held on 9th April 2024.

A resident requested that pool users be notified when the pool is being emptied. This will be discussed further under agenda item 7.1.

7. Maintenance

7.1 Sluice Gate

The Chairman reported following the Woodup Pool Information Event, the Chairman and the Clerk have explored various options regarding signage/notification when the pool is emptied. The Risk Assessor had also been consulted.

The Chairman stated that it was important to remember that this is an amenity pool, not a swimming pool, and therefore any additional measures should not add further to the existing workload of the volunteers or the Parish Clerk.

Several options were considered and after consultation with the Risk Assessor, it is proposed that a sign be installed at each entry point to the pool as per the attached design (Appendix A). The cost of the signage (4 x A1) would cost £282 + VAT.

The Committee would propose the expenditure to the Full Council. The cost of the signage would come from the Woodup Pool Earmarked Reserves – Woodup Pool Fundraising Event 2023.

7.2 Weed

It was reported that ten wheelbarrows of weed had recently been removed from the pool by the FACT team who had voluntarily devoted half a day to this task. The Committee noticed that the weed appeared to be growing back.

Action: FACT to check the weed when they next use the pool.

Action: Cllr Goldie to contact a local company who may be able to test the algae.

It was also suggested that weed removal be included in the working party day on 12th May 2024. Councillors agreed to monitor the weed and consider this closer to the time of the working party.

7.3 General Maintenance

Depth gauges: It was agreed to try an option that included the covering of the pipe with vinyl wrap. Mr Eastham had obtained a quotation for the pipe and wrap.

Action: Cllr Goldie to obtain an additional quotation for the vinyl wrap.

8. Request to Use Woodup Pool

The Committee were happy with the proposed schedule for the use of Woodup Pool by First Blackwater Scouts:

Monday 10th June – 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Friday 21st June – 5.30pm – 7.30pm (Cubs)
Monday 24th June – 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Friday 28th June – 5.30pm – 7.30pm (Cubs)
Monday 1st July – 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Monday 8th July – 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Monday 15th July – 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Action: Clerk to update the website with the usage dates for 2024.

9. Other Matters

The Chairman advised that she had been approached by a company that provides mobile saunas. The proposal is attached (Appendix B).

The Committee considered the proposal and agreed that such a facility would not be suitable for Woodup Pool.

Mr Eastham asked whether the Committee would consider an amendment to one of the agreed usage days of the pool by FACT.

Instead of all day on Wednesday 12th June, it is requested to use the pool during the morning (up to 12.30pm) on Tuesday 11th June, Wednesday 12th June and Thursday 13th June.

The Committee approved the request for the use change.

Action: Clerk to update the website accordingly.

10. Dates of the Next Meetings

The dates of the next Committee meetings will be confirmed after the Parish Council Annual Statutory Meeting on 7 May 2024.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.