

**MINUTES OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
Tuesday 8th September 2015**

The Meeting of Iron Acton Parish Council was held in Marshall Rooms commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Bellis (Chairman), Councillor Noble, Councillor Sheppard, Councillor Lomas, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Evans, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Lewis & Donna Beal (Clerk).

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

41 members of the public were present including a reporter from the Gazette
A presentation was made on behalf of Acton Aid "Gloria Jean proposal for installation in Iron Acton Parish Meadows"

Proposal

The proposal is to place the boat known as Gloria Jean as an additional piece of play equipment into the children's play area of the Parish Meadows, to be loved and provide fun for young people of the Parish.

History of Gloria Jean

She's an ex lifeboat, that was installed as part of a public art exhibition in Leigh Woods, South Bristol, between April and September 2015.

The art exhibition was a partnership project between the National Trust and the Forestry Commission.

Key Dimensions

Gloria Jean is 9.2 metres long, 3 metres wide and weighs 5.5 Tonnes.

Installation approach

There are two installation options.

1. To excavate the top soil to a depth of 550mm along her centre beam, reducing to 150mm around her circumference.

The hole would then be lined with a non water resistant membrane (teram) and back filled with 35-50mm crushed stone at a depth of 150mm. The stone will act as a soak away and support the hull.

The soil removed from the excavations will be put back along the sides of the craft and seeded with grass, to create a natural ramp for children to step down into the vessel.

2. To not excavate, but simply place Gloria Jean on the grass in the same way as she was installed in Leigh Woods and construct steps up for children to get on board.

Kings Heavy Haulage have been contracted to deliver Gloria Jean to the Parish Meadows, however for practical reasons, her actual route into the park would be through a neighbouring field or via Park Street.

Health and Safety

Gloria Jean was prepared for placement in a public area in March 2015, signed off for safety by representatives of the National Trust, the Forestry Commission and a Structural Engineer. The risk assessment and subsequent works were undertaken via guidance provided under BS EN1176 and BS EN 1177 - children's playground equipment and surfacing: updated for 2008.

As part of the preparation for her installation in Leigh Woods she was professionally adjusted for safety, for example, her engine was removed, access to below deck was blocked and all glass replaced with transparent acrylic etc. These works were carried out by Clarks Boatworks Ltd from Weymouth.

All of the work is covered under a surveyor's safety report valid until October 2016.

Consultation

Each house adjoining the Parish Meadows has been provided with a summary of this proposal.

A petition supporting Gloria Jean's installation has received 145 signatures and that's

just since last Friday.

Costs and Budgets

Acton Aid has offered to meet the full costs of the delivery and installation and to remove Gloria Jean if it fails on safety grounds Acton Aid will meet the cost of removal.

Site Plan

As Gloria Jean is to be an addition to the existing children's play equipment, from a safety point of view and to keep all the young people and Parents/Carers in the same area, it is proposed to install her in the middle of the play area, either facing North or East, as decreed by IAPC.

Maintenance

Gloria Jean was obviously originally built to spend its life in corrosive sea water and be open to the elements at all times, so she is designed to withstand the weather of the UK.

More recently she has been prepared to be clambered over and is for example, already painted with anti slip paint. Coo-Var Anti slip paint costs £12 per litre, which should last for up to 5 years. In terms of her hull, no maintenance will be required. Placing her in the play area should mitigate any grass cutting issues as its simply another obstacle to add to the existing ones.

The vessel has had its bilge keels extended so that it will sit square on the ground and there has been drain holes drilled in both the hull and deck to allow for drainage of rain water to stop build-up of same.

As with all equipment on the Parish Meadows, ownership and therefore maintenance will be with the Parish Council.

Uses

Creative play, which is seen as very important for educational development as well as simply being fun.

Councillor Sheppard raised concerns over the fall height safety, this was answered as the boat would not exceed a fall height regulation once the boat had been sunk into the ground.

Councillor Noble asked the proposed delivery details it was advised that the boat would be craned from the lorry on delivery and a tractor and trailer would be used and lifted on a pivot steel loader and placed into the location. It was advised that anything that was removed would be replaced and put right.

Councillor Lomas asked if the boat had been made safety assessed, it was advised on the presentation of a certificate that the boat had been signed off until October 2016.

Councillor Evans made reference for the need to use safety matting if required for regulations and the need to ensure the safety aspects of the children and protect the Parish Council.

Councillor Evans advised that he had concerns over the route into the Parish Meadows as there was no clear gap and feared that there would be damage made to trees.

The clerk advised that contact had been made to South Gloucestershire planning department and had been advised that as the boat was being added to the playground as recreational equipment no further planning permission would be required. The conservation department had advised that there were no issues that they could see and could not enforce anything but to ensure that the boat is located in a sensible location within the Parish Meadows.

The parishioners including the children in the room made lots of comments and opinions as the boat being a positive and a great asset for the Parish and could not understand why the Parish Council would object and refuse the boat when all the questions had been answered and safety issue fears had been addressed. There was such a great enthusiasm to add the boat to the play area and wanted the approach to be a positive and a lets make this work attitude and not find reasons to object.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Smith.

02-09-15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Pecuniary/ and or Non Pecuniary**
None declared.

03-09-15 **GLORIA JEAN BOAT**

Following a long debate and further questions and queries being raised in relation to the safety, planning, location, cost, delivery and installation, Councillor Lewis advised that opinions had now changed and that the Parish Council need to listen to what the people of the Parish wanted.

Councillor Bellis proposed and seconded by Councillor Sheppard

- Iron Acton Parish Council would accept the offer of Gloria Jean as outlined in the proposal.
- Gloria Jean would be sited North West of the children’s play area.
- Method of siting would be to sink into the ground reference option 1. To excavate the top soil to a depth of 550mm along her centre beam, reducing to 150mm around her circumference. The hole would then be lined with a non water resistant membrane (teram) and back filled with 35-50mm crushed stone at a depth of 150mm. The stone will act as a soak away and support the hull. The soil removed from the excavations will be put back along the sides of the craft and seeded with grass, to create a natural ramp for children to step down into the vessel.
- The Parish Council would seek a ROSPA play inspection once Gloria Jean had been sited and carry out any associated works.

It was noted that the cost of delivery and installation would be met by Acton Aid and if Gloria Jean was to fail safety inspections and needed to be removed on safety grounds this would be carried out by Acton Aid and the costs met by Acton Aid. The maintenance and upkeep would be the responsibility of the Paris Council. **ALL AGREED**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 21st September 2015 in Iron Acton Parish Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.06 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____