

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Beech Suite, George Reynolds Centre, following a meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee on Monday 14 March 2022.

PRESENT:

Cllrs. D. Wakeman (Chairman), M. Best, R. Cottle, K. Head, R. Pailthorpe, J. Roberts and A. Samuel.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan and Deputy Clerk L. Gowers, four members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

A question had been received from a resident who had been unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk was asked to email the response.

A resident thanked the council for the vegetation clearance undertaken at Pithers Court and looked forward to hearing the discussion on its future use and management later in the meeting. It was noted that a donation of wildflower seeds might be possible.

A query about the timescale for works to the tennis courts was received, Cllr. Wakeman confirming that a full update was on the agenda.

52 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21/22

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. T. Bond, J. Roundell Greene and A. Stuart (all personal).

53 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

21/22

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the informal meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 10 January 2022 be **APPROVED**.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21/22

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

55 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIRMAN

21/22 To receive an update report from the Amenities Chairman

The Chairman provided an update on the following amenities projects:

- Refurbishment of Public Toilets: this was now complete and there would be consideration by council in the future on uses for the former gents toilets.
- Market Street/South Street junction: BT contractors were now expected in April 2022.
- Air Quality Monitor: The AQM was now back online and gathering data.
- Land in front of Town Hall: now being progressed by solicitors.

Updates on the tennis courts and chatty benches were substantive agenda items.

56 SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

21/22 To receive an update from the Chair

Cllr. Wakeman reported that the Lawn Tennis Association and SSDC were now working together on a district wide project to refurbish and update a number of tennis courts across South Somerset.

He was pleased to be able to confirm that the tennis courts at Severalls would be included in these plans, which were currently awaiting final sign off with SSDC. The proposal was to refurbish and open both courts, which will be bookable via an app at a cost of £1 per session. The money raised from the court fees would go towards future maintenance and upkeep of the courts to ensure they are sustainable and long-lasting part of Crewkerne's leisure provision. The courts at Mudford Rec in Yeovil would be the pilot courts in this project, and SSDC estimated that works to the Crewkerne courts should commence in the summer.

Cllr. Wakeman reassured residents that the Town Council will keep asking for regular updates on this project, which will be reported at Amenities and Full Council meetings where appropriate, and noting that any queries on this project should be directed to locality@southsomerset.gov.uk.

57 **CHATTY BENCH**

21/22 To consider a request for 'chatty bench' signage and determine location

Councillors **AGREED** that chatty bench signage should be made up and trialled on one bench at each of Henhayes, Happy Valley, Bincombe Beeches and Barn Street Recreation Ground. A further sign should be offered to the Joint Burial Committee for consideration at the Cemetery.

Action: Clerk to order signage and identify benches.

58 **BINCOMBE BEECHES**

21/22 a. To receive a verbal update from the Chair regarding proactive management of Ash trees

Cllr. Wakeman reported that evidence of ash dieback disease had been discovered at Bincombe Beeches and that he was proposing to ask the Council's arborist to prepare a proactive management plan for the site, and in due course, all CTC owned sites to enable effective maintenance going forward. This course of action was duly **AGREED**, with a suggestion that SSDC's tree officer also be consulted on planned management.

b. To consider a request from Crewkerne Cubs to erect bird and bat boxes

This request was **AGREED**, subject to obtaining the appropriate permissions. Councillors suggested that the group might wish to contact the Wayford Woods Management Committee, which had recently undertaken a similar project.

59 **PITHERS COURT**

21/22 To consider a request to create a wildflower meadow/plant bulbs at the land to the rear of Pithers Court

Cllr. Wakeman noted that this area could be maintained by Council staff in the future if fencing could be erected. The Clerk was asked to seek quotes for fencing and bring back to a future council meeting, with a view to including this area on the Council's in house maintenance schedule. The request to plant wildflower seeds was deferred, pending a decision about fencing.

60 **HENHAYES**

21/22 To consider a request from Crewkerne Supporting Cancer Research UK to erect a gazebo for an Easter Egg hunt

This was **AGREED**, subject to receipt of Public Liability insurance.

61 **HENHAYES CAR PARK**

21/22 To consider a request from CUDOS to close and use the car park on 3 June for a Jubilee performance

This was **AGREED**.

62 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

21/22

Cllr. Samuel reported that a follow up meeting regarding Barn Street Recreation Area had been held and that a report would be compiled for a future council meeting.

63 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21/22

Date TBC.

Signed:

Dated: