

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, following a meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee on Monday 11 July 2022.

PRESENT:

Cllr. D. Wakeman (Chair), S. Ashton, T. Bond, N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, P. Maxwell, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Samuel.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan and five members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

No one wished to speak.

Cllr. Wakeman made a personal statement noting that all councillors had been recently elected by the public and gave up their time freely and unpaid to do so. He requested that councillors be treated with respect, both in person and online, and stated that cyber bullying was not acceptable.

11 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22/23

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Best (unwell) and A Stuart (personal).

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

22/23

Cllr. Draycott declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to Happy Valley as a nearby resident.

Cllr. Samuel declared an interest in the agenda item relating to St. Bartholomew's School as an employee at the school.

13 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

22/23

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 23 May 2022 be APPROVED.

14 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIRMAN

22/23 To receive an update report from the Amenities Chairman

The Chairman provided an update on the following amenities projects:

- Air Quality Monitor: is working and producing data which Cllr. Ashton has reviewed;
- Tommy: the second draft transfer of Tommy from SSDC had been received and Cllr. Best is having a meeting with SSDC officers regarding the gardens;
- Combination locks at GRC: keypads for changing room security had been installed at the GRC;
- Bincombe allotments wall: patch repair booked with contractor to be carried out imminently;
- Repairs to wetpour and yellow gate at Henhayes play area: repairs booked in with contractor, awaiting availability to carry out work;
- Chatty benches: had now been installed at Henhayes, Barn Street and Happy Valley.

Cllr. Head noted that the toilets in Falkland Square had been repeatedly vandalised and recently a member of the public had performed a 'citizen's arrest' on finding someone setting fire to paper in a cubicle. After police involvement it was hoped that the person responsible would be volunteering some time assisting Crewkerne Bloom as an act of community service.

15 SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

22/23 a. To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The Clerk reported that:

- The condition survey of the courts had now been carried out by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), who would be producing a costed report based on the results;
- She had attended a meeting with the project manager from the LTA and the SSDC Locality Officer, where the process had been outlined;
- Further updates will continue to be reported at Council/Amenities Committee meetings.

b. To receive an update on the works agreed to enable the adjacent land to be opened to the public

Cllr. Wakeman reported that the bins and benches had been ordered and that the fencing works would hopefully be carried out in July.

16 ALLOTMENT PROVISION

22/23 To receive an update on the current status of Crewkerne Town Council's allotments, allocation and waiting list and consider any future possibility of expanding provision to meet demand

Councillors noted a report outlining the current status of Town Council allotments. It was noted that the Deputy Clerk's efforts to discuss land at Clammer Hill Lane with Crewkerne Educational Foundation had been unsuccessful. Councillors felt that a conversation with the developers of the key site outlining the demand for allotments in the town might be worthwhile.

The Deputy Clerk was tasked to communicate with holders of allotments which were not being maintained or fully used to establish if they were still required.

17 TELEPHONE KIOSK

22/23 To consider whether to adopt the disconnected telephone kiosk outside Town Hall

Councillors discussed the future of the now-disconnected kiosk outside Town Hall. It was AGREED that Crewkerne Town Council should adopt the kiosk and make arrangements for it to be tidied up and painted, following which further discussion about its use would take place.

18 GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE:

22/23 a. To consider whether to proceed with a quote from SPARK for professional governance and budgeting support

Cllr. Nathan raised concerns about the quote for budgeting support, stating that it was quite specific to the bar only, and that there was a bigger issue around the venue as a whole which needed support. It was AGREED to accept the quote from SPARK for governance support only, in order to first explore viable governance models.

Following the governance session councillors would explore an interim solution of making the bar available to hire for functions with external bar providers. Cllr. Wakeman urged all councillors to attend the session when scheduled.

b. To consider a quotation to separate the gas connection to the GRC

Councillors agreed a dispensation to proceed with the one quote obtained for this work, as the second contractor approached had declined to quote. It was noted that the work needed to be done and on this basis it was AGREED to accept the quote for £1984.83 (+VAT) from The Boilerman (GRC project budget).

19 HAPPY VALLEY:

22/23 To receive a report from a site visit regarding the condition of the perimeter fence near St. Bartholomew's School

Cllrs. Head and Wakeman reported that they had inspected a broken fence at Happy Valley, where accessed had been forced through a steep and difficult area where badger setts are present. They recommended that the fence be repaired and strengthened for safety reasons. Additionally, they suggested that a two-metre extension of the long grass growing at the rear of the adjoining properties at Thomson Drive be allowed to grow, the mowed pathway would then be more centrally located in this area of Happy Valley. It was AGREED to delegate the organisation of fence repairs to the Clerk in consultation with Chair of Amenities, providing the cost is under delegated thresholds.

20 MATTERS OF REPORT

22/23

Cllr. Head reported that the far end of the Easthams Lane footpath is now very overgrown and requested an update on which paths are covered by the volunteer footpath officers. It was suggested that details of how to report issues with rights of way could be included in a future newsletter.

Cllr. Nathan reported that the steps between Bincombe Beeches and Westover View were very worn and potentially dangerous. It was agreed to ask the Deputy Clerk to clarify ownership with SCC and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr. Head reminded everyone that the judging was taking place on Wednesday that week for Crewkerne in Bloom 2022, thanking everyone involved for their efforts.

21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22/23

Monday 12 September 2022 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Am11July2022