

Councillors are hereby summoned, and members of the public and press are invited, to attend a meeting of the Amenities Committee to be held on Monday 9 January 2023, following the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, and not commencing before 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

Note:

- Members of the public who wish to view the meeting proceedings, either in real time or afterwards, can access the meeting through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTA9K-7L4Onjcli2Gtz7tCg>

K. Sheehan, Town Clerk (signed on original)

3 January 2023

Agenda

Open Forum: Questions may be put to the Committee in person during this Public Participation Session of up to 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Issues notified to the Clerk a minimum of 3 working days before the meeting (i.e., by 5pm on the preceding Wednesday) will receive a response during this session. Issues raised in this session without prior notice may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda.

1. To note apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
3. To confirm the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 November 2022.
4. Report from the Amenities Chair: to receive an update report.
5. Tennis courts: to receive an update.
6. Bincombe Beeches: to consider a proposal for compensatory tree planting of 100 donated trees or donation to an earmarked tree planting fund.
7. To receive Matters of Report (for information only).
8. Next meeting: Monday 13 March 2023 following the Planning and Highways Committee meeting, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Amenities Committee: January 2023 Project and Works Report

Part 1: Projects

Project	Description	Budget	Status	Comments
War Commemoration Trust land	Tennis courts to be refurbished	Within Earmarked Reserves/ LTA SSDC proposal to refurb	October WMCT meeting agreed to proceed with operating model B to procurement stage.	Verbal update at January meeting from Clerk following meeting with project lead
Additional town centre long stay parking	New car park on former Millers Garage site	N/A	SSDC lead	Clerk has requested an update from SSDC planning
Tree planting schemes across CTC sites	Trees to be planted in agreed areas on Barn St. rec. ground	Trees have been received via a grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings at Barn St have been held. 	Consultation complete.
	Trees to be planted across CTC sites	TBD	Trees have been planted in various locations	In progress.
Southmead playground wall painting	Wall had been painted as a young people's project. Wall rendering has been repaired.		Arrange for wall to be painted as a young people's project. To be actioned through Youth Steering Group.	Spring 2023 project with ALS.
Environment initiatives	Air quality monitoring system	Purchased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application to SSDC successful. • System installed. 	Working and data is being received. Q on how Council would like to receive this data? Possible new locations for the unit?
	Create nature trail at Bincombe	TBD	Proposal to be worked up.	Cllrs Wakeman and Samuel to catch up.
Severalls oval land and war memorial	Propose to transfer oval garden area and "Tommy" war memorial to CTC ownership		Transfer of Tommy and oval to CTC as sole trustee of WMCT now agreed.	Draft transfer received, updated searches taking place.
Council Chamber at Town Hall	Proposal to revisit professional wiring of Chamber for sound/visuals, also to look at a hearing loop.	TBD. Outlay likely to be quite high - budget consideration.		Clerk to undertake visit to County Hall to see mobile tech set up used for meetings
Henhayes playground	Spring riders - one broken.	Funding application sent.	Council has agreed to replace both, Clerk has applied for funding from SSDC (sent December 2022)	Waiting on SSDC.

Amenities Committee: January 2023 Project and Works Report

Part 2: Maintenance

Amenity	Description	Status	End date/Comments
GRC	Zoning of heating/electricity usage	Consulting with electrician to see how usage can be managed more efficiently.	Ops Manager reports that the heating zones are controlled and set using terminal in plant room. Zoning for electrical power usage no possible without considerable wiring alterations and cost.
	Blinds	Some of the large blinds broken in Beech Suite. Difficulty finding spare parts.	Quotes obtained but will need refreshing if councillors want to pursue.
	Thermostatic winders	Window winders broken. Possible consideration for thermostatic replacements to better manage the room's temperature.	
	Cracked window unit	Needs replacements. Expensive but needs doing ahead of any film or works to winders.	
	Solar panels	Need to reassess feasibility. Mark to seek professional advice.	Local suppliers currently inundated - advised to try again 2023. On suppliers list for when they have assessment to look at new customers.
Town Hall/Victoria Hall	Ground floor issues of damp, lack of ventilation and poor heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial report received from consultant. Way forward to be considered based upon this report. 	Ongoing.
Bincombe allotments	Wall bordering allotments and path is in a poor state of repair		Back wall repairs complete. Possible patch repairs to wall adjoining slope.
Severalls allotment wall	Wall and pillars need repointing	Quotation obtained for repointing.	Final grant paperwork submitted 31.10.22. Awaiting further detail from WMT.
Henhayes concrete path	Concrete path on far side of Henhayes is in a poor state. Trip hazard.	Quotation being sought to lay tarmac dressing on path	Wall is not in TC ownership. Path will continue to be damaged by wall debris. Would be preferable if wall was stabilised first, then patch repairs carried out to path.
Bincombe Beeches Nature Reserve	Ash die back - potential threat	TC's arboricultural consultant will be asked to assess and produce a plan for ash management at all CTC's sites	Report received and initial urgent works passed to tree surgeon for action. Works now scheduled with contractor.
	Stock fencing along entrance post and rail fence	Complaints re dogs getting out under fence -possible fence or hedging required?	Grant for hedging agreed - hedging will be received March 2023.
Happy Valley Skate Park	Request for possible path to skate park	High cost of path likely. Grounds team to look at extending mesh to stabilise a wider area of ground around skate park.	Difficult to lay tarmac across this area as forms part of underground drainage/soakaway system.
Henhayes play area	Rubber mulch surfacing deteriorating	Possible binding solutions to slow down deterioration?	Quotes prohibitively expensive - watch and clear debris. Possible to purchase vacuum attachment for blower to remove debris.

Amenities Committee: January 2023 Project and Works Report
Part 3: Maintenance "watch list"

Amenity	Description	Status
Bincombe Beeches	Walkabout	•Mountain bike tracks being built. Groundstaff removing where possible. Monitoring.
Happy Valley & Severalls.	Walkabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisocial behaviour and motorbikes on Happy Valley being monitored. * Recent graffiti to teen shelter. Monitoring in conjunction with PCSOs.
Henhayes	Compound for sports club's containers	Ongoing.
George Reynolds Centre	Drainage - historical issues	Contractor has assessed and considers that historical issues with drains could be due to an air pressure issue. To monitor. Management issue. Drain down at Aquacentre not due until 2023.
Happy Valley play area	Problem with edge of sand pit area causing sand to be washed away	To monitor over summer months. Weigh up cost of sleepers against replacement sand. Ops Manager to cost up replacement sand for spring 2023 - chased supplier again January 2023.
Falkland Square toilets	Smoke alarm	Quotes being obtained.

Amenities Committee: January 2023 Project and Works Report

Part 4: Future Projects list

Amenity	Description	Comments
Falkland Square toilets	Future use of gents toilets	Former gents toilets currently unused - possible future use needs to be identified by Councillors.
GRC	Aircon in upstairs rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quotations received but costs and proposed solutions were inconsistent.• Short term solutions investigated:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- install solar reflective film on outside of windows- install a mechanism to allow windows to open automatically. Quotation obtained: costs are significant. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further work to be undertaken to investigate options/ grant funding may be available. Grant application has been submitted. Funding agreed - due to schedule work after Christmas.
Town Hall	Planned boiler replacement	Aging boiler will need replacing in near future; limited availability of parts means potential to repair is limited.

ITEM DEFERRED FROM DECEMBER FULL COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6: Bincombe Beeches: to consider a proposal for compensatory tree planting of 100 donated trees or donation to an earmarked tree planting fund.

Background:

Further to the agreement at November Full Council about the general principle of compensatory tree planting being welcomed on Crewkerne Town Council open spaces, the following detailed proposal has been received from the arborist.

“Two landowners have a mature boundary beech tree that they have agreed should be removed; both their properties are densely treed and they do not have space for suitable compensatory planting, therefore I have proposed that on the basis of the size of the objective estimated size of the tree they wish to remove (~ 100cm stem diameter beech) they offer 100 new trees and labour planting costs up to a value of ~ £750. This is based on the estimated costs of mixed species saplings & shelters/stakes/mats/pegs @ £5 per tree plus £250 labour planting costs.

The tree is within a conservation area and therefore when the planning app/notice is submitted we wish to be able to demonstrate we can enable real local compensatory tree planting that will provide as much or more public benefit than the existing tree. - for environmental sustainability purposes.

From my local knowledge and experience for CTC I know that removals of diseased ashes at Bincombe Beeches is happening, and I suggest the 100 new trees could be accommodated as replacement planting within the existing woodland and/or as peripheral planting as CTC prefers. Species would be chosen to suit the location and conditions; details of which can be supplied up front.

A trusted local contractor could be supplied with the specifications and commissioned directly. Or alternatively the funds could be allocated to CTC tree fund.

Please ask the council if this proposal is acceptable. If it is then I will apply to SSDC to remove the tree and tell SSDC that we have agreement with CTC for local compensatory planting. I am happy to discuss any details with anyone at CTC or the SSDC tree officer”.

Recommendation:

Councillors to agree whether they would like to accept new trees and labour costs for tree planting as outlined above, OR whether they would like the equivalent funds allocated to an earmarked tree planting fund held by Crewkerne Town Council.