

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 15 May 2023.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. D. Wakeman (Chair), N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, A. Samuel, A. Stuart.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk E. Wilkins, Operations Manager A. Cross and one member of the public.

**OPEN FORUM**

No one wished to speak.

**41 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

22/23

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Ashton (personal), M. Best (unwell), T. Bond (personal), J. Nathan (personal), P. Maxwell (personal) and J. Morris (personal).

**42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

22/23

No declarations were made at this point.

**43 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 9 January 2023 be **APPROVED**.

**44 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIRMAN**

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

The Chairman introduced Andy Cross, who had recently started as Operations Manager, who provided an update on the following projects:

- Both the tennis courts and audio-visual equipment were featured separately on the agenda.
- The air conditioning units had been installed at the GRC and were awaiting commissioning by the installer.
- Quotes were being sought to replace a cracked window at the GRC.
- Works to trees with ash dieback disease at Bincombe would take place before the end of the month.
- Quotes were being sought to proactively replace the Town Hall boiler over the summer to avoid winter failure.

**45 TENNIS COURTS**

22/23 To receive an update on the planned courts refurbishment at Severalls

The Town Clerk reported that all contracts had now been signed. A slight delay had been incurred due to an administrative error in the final contract document, which had now been rectified. Bearing in mind that all works were weather dependent, it was hoped that work would commence following the late May bank holiday. Staff were being trained on how to use the courts booking software.

**46 DEFIBRILLATORS**

22/23 To consider options regarding ownership and maintenance

Councillors considered a report from the Town Clerk, noting that two of the town's defibrillators were currently not functioning. Cllr. Head reported that the League of Friends of Crewkerne Hospital were going to take over responsibility for the one located at West One surgery. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate how much it would cost to get it operational again, but Councillors confirmed that in principle they were supportive of the idea of taking ownership of the unit located opposite Lidl.

**47 AIR QUALITY MONITOR**

22/23 To consider possible locations

The Operations Manager noted that various samples would be required for comparison purposes and to establish a baseline. After some discussion it was AGREED to delegate to the Operations Manager to investigate possible locations for the monitor and report back.

**48 COUNCIL CHAMBER AUDIO/VIDEO**

22/23 To consider a proposal to purchase a meeting OWL

It was AGREED to purchase a meeting OWL to support the streaming of Council meetings at a cost of £1,049.

**49 HAPPY VALLEY**

22/23 To receive a report on recent instances of anti-social behaviour

The Chair reported that:

- An increasing number of reports of anti-social behaviour at Happy Valley were being received by the Council, which was liaising closely with the police.
- Most recently a stolen motorbike has been set on fire and abandoned, and the floodlight controls have been vandalised.
- Following a meeting with community stakeholders about the site, alterations to prevent easy access to problem areas will be undertaken, in the interests of community safety, to protect residential neighbours and the primary school located along the boundary.
- He emphasised the importance of members of the public reporting any incidences of anti-social behaviour to 101, to help the police team target their resources where needed most.

The Clerk was asked to approach ALS about providing some extra outreach work at Happy Valley to try and reduce ASB.

**50 MATTERS OF REPORT**

22/23

Cllr. Draycott commented that he would like to see a larger uniformed police presence on foot through the town. Cllr. Wakeman reported that the Council's Youth Service provider had recently been able to act as a safe space for a young person, noting that the value of the service including the subsidy of providing the GRC, was impossible to account for in monetary terms. Cllr. Head noted that the Coronation event had been very well received and expressed her thanks to the Deputy Clerk for organising it.

**51 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

22/23



Monday 10 July 2023 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.52.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

Am15May2023