

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, following a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on Monday 12 February 2024.

PRESENT:

Cllr. M. Best (Chair), T. Bond, N. Draycott, D. Livesley, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Stuart and S. Woodland.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan and one member of the public.

OPEN FORUM

No one wished to speak.

40 TO ELECT A CHAIR

23/24

Cllr. Best was elected as Chair of the Amenities Committee. He thanked former Town Councillor and outgoing Chair of Amenities Committee Dan Wakeman for his many years of service.

41 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR

23/24

Cllr. Head was elected as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee.

42 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

23/24

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Ashton, A. Samuel (both personal) and K. Head (unwell).

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23/24

None.

44 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

23/24

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2023 be APPROVED.

45 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIR

23/24

To receive an update report from the Amenities Chairman

The Chair noted that revised Amenities progress report had been published. The Clerk clarified that Cllr. Ashton had been identified for involvement in the GRC solar panels project due to his experience in the field of photo-voltaics. Cllr. Nathan noted that some of the new trees at Bincombe Beeches still required staking and sleeving.

The Operations Manager was asked to make arrangements for the removal of the tree growing out of the wall at Bincombe allotments.

46 HENHAYES PERIMETER PATH

23/24

To receive a verbal update

The Town Clerk reported that a contractor had attended site to assess the request from ABCD for a perimeter path. A further site visit would be required to avoid the suggested route compromising the root zone of the Turkey Oak. The Operations Manager would organise this in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Amenities Chair.

47 BARN STREET RECREATION GROUND TREES

23/24 To consider an amendment to the Barn Street Recreation Ground planting plan in order to access Somerset Council's Urban Tree Fund

Councillors considered the report, noting that Somerset Council's Tree Officer was suggesting an additional 24 trees, compared to the planting plan's requirement of an additional 7. Councillors felt that the inclusion of trees in the central part of the area would be a positive change.

It was AGREED to apply for an additional 15 trees, subject to the Deputy Clerk obtaining confirmation from the air ambulance that the central location for planting of three of the trees was acceptable.

48 REPLACEMENT BOILER AT TOWN HALL

23/24 To consider quotations to replace the boiler at Town Hall

Councillors noted that the boiler, having been in place since 1995, was at the end of its life and replacement parts were now obsolete.

It was AGREED to:

- Permit a dispensation to proceed on the basis of two quotes; due to the specialist nature of the installation a number of companies declined to quote.
- Award the work to HeatWave Mechanical Services Ltd for the price of £16,360 (+ VAT).

Authority to proceed with the installation was delegated to the Town Clerk and Operations Manager. The Town Clerk confirmed that the value of this quote was covered by an earmarked reserve.

49 BARN STREET BEECH TREE

23/24 To receive an update on planned specialist testing

The Town Clerk reported that, following the decision of the Amenities Committee in September 2023 to carry out specialist testing on the Barn Street beech tree, a refreshed quote and additional information had been received.

Councillors noted that the cost of the test was in excess of £2,000 and a piece of heavy plant (in excess of 5 tons) would need to be hired at additional cost. Some damage to the grassed area would be likely.

Councillors AGREED not to proceed with the specialist testing and instead ask the Operations Manager to obtain a second opinion on the health of the tree, as well as the Lucombe Oak and Turkey Oak.

50 HEARING SUPPORT SYSTEM

23/24 To consider a quotation for a hearing support system

Cllr. Best reported that a hearing support system had been demonstrated by a local company which specialises in this area. Quotes were being obtained for a fixed loop, but also a portable hearing and sound system which would work in the Council Chamber, Victoria Hall and George Reynolds Centre. This would be brought back to the Amenities Committee meeting in March for consideration as one final query regarding the system's interaction with the Owl system was outstanding.

51 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

23/24

Councillors reported that:

- Overhanging trees on North Street had been cut back from nearby cables.
- There had been a slight amendment to the wording on the proposed changes to Recycling Centre operations across Somerset and a consultation was still expected. Cllr. Best would request that portfolio holder Cllr. Dixie Darch attend a Crewkerne Town Council meeting.

A brief discussion about the differences in legislation between recycling centres and kerbside collections took place.

52 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

23/24

Monday 11 March 2024 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 20.39.

Signed:

Dated:

Am12February2024