



Beaminster Town Council

TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Public Hall on Tuesday 18th July 2023 commencing at 7.00pm.

- 308 PRESENT:** Cllr Beswarick (Chairman), Cllr Biggs, Cllr Body, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Monks, Cllr Turner and Cllr Woods; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and Matthew Camps (Groundsman)
- 309 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Runyard and Andrew Alexander (Head Groundsman/Maint. Manager)
- 310 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
Cllr Turner proposed Cllr Beswarick, seconded by Cllr Monks, there being no other nominations Cllr Beswarick was duly elect Chairman for the ensuing council year.
- 311 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
Cllr Biggs proposed Cllr Gunning, seconded by Cllr Monks, there being no other nominations Cllr Gunning was duly elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing council year.
- 312 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 313 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
- 314 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD**
- (a) Proposed toilet/store**
Members **NOTED** planning permission had been approved by Dorset Council. The head groundsman had met with representatives from Wessex Water and Western Power and it would appear currently there was no water supply to the site although there were three options put forward for connection. With regard to electricity in order to obtain a quotation an enquiry form had to be completed, the Town Clerk had that in hand; also a meeting to be arranged with the architect to discuss building regulations.
- (b) Beaminster Cricket Club**
Members were asked to consider a request received from Beaminster Cricket Club with regard to an amendment proposed to the original request to replace the cricket training nets. Following advise the Club had to amended the proposal to be more in line with best

practice guidance offered by Sport England so that the orientation of the proposed facility was not directly into the setting sun. Members had no objections and **RECOMMEND** approval of the request.

(c) Items raised by Cricket/Football Club representative

In the absence of a representative no additional issues were raised.

315 CEMETERY

(a) Fees 2023/2024

Members had previously been circulated with details of current cemetery charges across a number of Dorset towns, two from Somerset and one from Devon.

Following due consideration members **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** an increase of 50% on all charges with the exception of the interment of cremated remains and the exclusive right of burial for cremated remains, the charges for which to remain at the current level. The new charges to come into effect from 1st September 2023.

316 PUBLIC HALL

(a) Hire Fees 2023/2024

The Town Clerk advised a similar comparison paper would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of this committee with regard to Public Hall charges.

317 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

In the absence of a representative no issues were raised.

318 PUBLIC TOILETS

The Town Clerk confirmed there were no issues to raise.

319 THE SQUARE

Members were asked to consider suitable inscriptions of the new planters in the Square as it had been the intention to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III.

Cllr Monks advised he had recently discovered a plaque in storage at the Public Hall to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth's coronation and felt that a similar inscription would be appropriate for the new planters. **AGREED** the Town Clerk would put together suitable inscription and circulate for members approval.

It was **AGREED** to provide an additional plaque to acknowledge the generous bequest given by the former Town Clerk, the late Mrs Blair, monies which had funded the purchase of one of the planters.

Cllr Turner felt the generosity of C W Groves & Son (Little Groves) should also be acknowledged who kindly supply and plant the war memorial and planters. **AGREED.**

320 GENERAL

(a) Dorset Council – Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order

Members had previously had the opportunity to view the consultation documents, the important areas of the Town that required a degree of control were covered by the blanket Protection Order relating to sports pitches, play areas, cemeteries and allotments therefore members had no comments to make.

321 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday 20th September 2023.

322 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960

To **RESOLVE** that public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of quotations received.

(a) Protection of Assets

The Town Clerk advised a revised quotation had been obtained from John Bright Fencing based on 1.4m centres, the cost being £4,650.83 + VAT, an increase of £785 + VAT on the original quotation to supply and erect galvanised posts. **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** acceptance.

(b) Public Hall

- **External decoration** – the Town Clerk advised a third quotation had not been received however on discussing the two quotations previously considered with the Head Groundsman/Maintenance Manager she could confirm they had been obtained on a like for like basis with both contractors relying on external carpenters for significant repairs. **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Mr Adrian Ballantyne in the sum of £1,200
- **Replacement fascia, soffits and guttering** – the Town Clerk advised a further quotation had been obtained from O'Brien's for the supply and install of timber fascia's etc. the cost being £6,310.81 + VAT an increase of £442.85 + VAT on the original quotation for UPV. **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** acceptance of the quotation subject to satisfactory result with regard to the asbestos testing due to take place at a cost of £210 + VAT.

(c) Tree Works

The Town Clerk advised a tree report and quotation had been obtained following a complaint from a resident in Myrtle Close with regard to branches overhanging the garden. The report stated that the tree was showing signs of stress with a few dead branches at the top, which could be due to the dry weather. The tree was growing over the neighbours garden however there was no reason to cut it back on the garden side as it would unbalance the tree.

The report recommended the removal of the dead wood at a cost of £550 + VAT. Following discussion members **AGREED** to monitor the tree in the short term.

d) Cemetery

Members had previously been circulated with correspondence received from Monsignor Keith Mitchell from Bridport Catholic Church expressing concern with regard to the temporary closure of the access from St. John's Church to the cemetery and the potential loss of the right of way.

Following discussion members felt this was a private matter between the Church and the owner of Trefoil House.

323 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN
20th September 2023