



Beaminster Town Council

TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Public Hall on Tuesday 21st March 2023 commencing at 7.00pm.

294 PRESENT: Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Biggs, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Turner also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Matthew Camps (Groundsman) and J Mohiki (Allotment Association)

295 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Monks, Cllr Drinnan and Cllr Langridge.

296 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022. Minutes confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

297 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Biggs declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (b) – Allotment rent (his wife is an allotment plot holder)

Cllr Cheeseman declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (b) – Allotment rent (his wife is an allotment plot holder)

298 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

(a) Proposed toilet/store

The Town Clerk advised the funding application submitted to the National Lottery Awards for All had been successful and the sum of £10,000 had been received; also the planning application had been submitted to Dorset Council and would be processed in the coming weeks. **NOTED.**

Prior to the next meeting the Town Clerk was asked to put together potential running costs etc. for the public toilet.

(b) Beaminster Cricket Club

The Town Clerk advised the Cricket Club's intention to erect a small extension to the Council's garage had not come to fruition subsequently a request for permission to site a small storage unit beside the existing practice nets had been received.

Members had no objections on the conditions that the unit would be removed when not in use during the winter months and would not be used to store flammable items. **AGREED** to grant permission.

(c) Play Area Safety Inspection Report

The Town Clerk advised the latest report dated 26th January 2023 had not highlighted any additional issues with the play area to those previously mentioned. The additional signage had now been installed subsequent to the report and it had been established the holes in the slide were in fact drainage holes and should not be filled. **NOTED** and **APPROVED**.

d) Items raised by Cricket/Football Club representative

In the absence of a representative no issues were raised.

299 CEMETERY

(a) Fees 2023 2024

The Town Clerk advised members of comparison cemetery fees charges by other local authorities in the area, indications were that the Councils existing charges were relatively low. The Town Clerk was asked to undertake further research with regard to fees from a wider area to ascertain the average fees across Dorset.

300 PUBLIC HALL

(a) Toilet Refurbishment

The Town Clerk advised that refurbishment works were nearing completion in the coming days; also an agreement had been reached with the insurers in respect of the leak in the ladies toilets in the sum of £6,548. **NOTED**.

(b) Hire Fees 2023/2024

Members felt that prior to considering the hire fees going forward it would be prudent to have an indication as to what other halls charged. The Town Clerk was asked to undertake further research and report back to a future meeting.

(c) New flooring

The laying of the new flooring in the toilets and part of the rear lobby had highlighted the condition of the remainder of the flooring, now being a different colour to the new. Members **AGREED** to obtain a quotation to lay the same flooring in the remainder of the rear lobby extending out to the rear fire door.

301 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

The representative advised of the installation of a gate by a householder in East Street giving them access directly onto the allotment site and questioned whether permission had been granted by the Council. The Town Clerk confirmed no permission had been requested or granted, members **AGREED** the access should be removed, the Town Clerk was asked to pursue.

There also remained the outstanding issue of the water meter that had been installed during the summer of 2022, enquiries with Wessex Water had ascertained it had been installed as a test meter to potentially trace a leak however an assurance had been given that no charges would be made. The Town Clerk confirmed a water charge invoice had been received based on standing charge rather than meterage. **NOTED**.

A potential increase in Allotment rent was discussed and members **RESOLVED** to increase the annual rent for the site to £55, an increase of £5 per annum.

302 PUBLIC TOILETS

(a) Replacement hopper

The Town Clerk advised the contractor had replaced the hopper however the overspill issue had not been resolved. It was **AGREED** to defer any further action until the new head groundsman had commenced duties as it might be possible to resolve the issue in house.

303 THE SQUARE

No items were raised for discussion.

Members **NOTED** an order had been placed for the supply of two hardwood planters to accommodate the commemorative trees, delivery anticipated prior to 31st March.

304 GENERAL

(a) Request for Litter Bin

The Town Clerk advised that on completion of the new public toilets the litter bin previously sited in the Yarn Barton Courtyard had been relocated, a request had been received from a resident of the properties above the Yarn Barton Centre for a replacement bin due to the amount of litter, food etc. had attracted vermin. The cost for a litter bin would be in the region of £270. Members **AGREED** to replace the bin.

305 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday 16th May 2023.

306 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) Replacement ceiling/lighting– Public Hall

The Town Clerk advised a third quotation was awaited for the replacement of the ceiling.

Some discussion ensued with regard to achieving the best value for the limited budget available and questioned whether there were more urgent works. The Town Clerk was asked to put together an outline of necessary/desirable projects for consideration at a future meeting.

307 MEETING

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

CHAIRMAN
16th May 2023

