



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 19th November 2024 commencing at 7.00pm.

- 364 PRESENT:** Cllr Gunning (Chairman), Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Turner and Cllr Woods; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Alex Alexander (Head Groundsman/Maint. Manager) and Mr M Runyard (Beaminster Football & Cricket Club).
- 365 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Body and Matthew Camp (Groundsman)
- 366 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2024 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 367 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 368 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD**
- (a) Children's Play area**
Members **NOTED** the cutting back of the boundary hedge had been completed; also a replacement part for the repair of the Revolve roundabout was awaited.
- (b) Pine trees**
Members considered a request from the owner of a neighbouring property in which permission was sought to cut back overhanging branches, or fell a Monterey Pine adjacent to his property.
- The Town Clerk advised that all work identified within a recent tree inspection report had been undertaken including the removal of dead wood from the tree in question. The Head Gardener did not consider the branches in question to overhang significantly as to cause a serious threat to the neighbouring property. Members **AGREED** to refuse permission.
- (c) Parking Places Order**
Members had previously been circulated with a copy of a draft Parking Places Order in respect of the Memorial Playing Field car park for comment prior to submission to Dorset Council for consideration.
- Members had no major amendments to make to the draft however with regard to the scale of charges the Town Clerk was asked to ensure those were in line with charges for the Yarn Barton Car Park.

(d) Public Toilet project

The Town Clerk advised most costings were to hand with regard to the siting of a module toilet in the Memorial Playing Field, following a site meeting with Wessex Water the cost of the project had escalated.

Members **RESOLVED** to consider this item at the end of the meeting following the exclusion of public and press due to the confidential nature with regard to financial considerations.

(e) Cricket Club/Football Club

Mr Runyard had no new issues to raise on behalf of the Cricket or Football Club.

369 CEMETERY

No issues were raised.

370 PUBLIC HALL

No issues were raised.

371 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

In the absence of a representative no issues were raised.

372 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

373 THE SQUARE

No issues were raised.

374 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Members were asked to consider the following projects for possible inclusion in the budget for 2025/2026:

(a) Memorial Playing Field drainage

Drainage, particularly in the goal area at the top end of the pitch, had been a problem for some time despite some new drainage. It was **AGREED** to include a sum to engage a contractor to jet/inspect the existing drains using a camera. Cllr Gunning agreed to pursue and obtain a quotation for inclusion in the budget.

(b) Extension to Memorial Playing Field Car Park

Discussion ensued with regard to the suggestion that the car park be extended out in order to provide exclusive parking for sports teams on match days and hirers of the pavilion to ease the pressure on the car park. The Head Groundsman expressed his concerns with regard to the possible impact on ground conditions by introducing a hard surface adjacent to the sports pitch, he advised indicative costs for excavating, install drainage, hard surface and bollards were in excess of £20,000.

Members **AGREED** the project would not be viable but to monitor the situation following the installed of the controlled access.

c) Repairs to paved path from the rear of the pavilion to Footpath 69

The Head Groundsman highlighted the poor condition of this well used path, he advised a quotation had been obtained to undertake repairs. **AGREED** to include funds within the budget to undertake repairs.

(d) Introduction of 'Pay & Display' in Memorial Field Car Park

Members **AGREED** not to consider this until such time as the Parking Place Order had formally been put in place.

(e) Creation of works compound at the bottom of the new burial ground; also the creation of a Pet Cemetery including fencing

Members were shown a plan of the new burial ground including a section at the bottom set aside for a Pet cemetery to be separated from the main cemetery with fencing.

The Town Clerk advised that a request had been received kindly offering to plant a hedge along the boundary. Members were in agreement that with the removal of the old boundary the area had been opened up and they would like to retain the vista however members would not object to the introduction of a hedge rather than fencing for the pet cemetery, the Town Clerk to liaise with the person submitting the request.

Decoration of the front elevation of the Public Hall

The Town Clerk advised a quotation had been obtained to paint the woodwork etc on the front elevation of the Public Hall. **AGREED** to make provision within the budget.

375 GENERAL

(a) Dorset Council – Draft Street Trading Policy

Members **NOTED** the consultation had commenced on 4th November, **AGREED** to review and submit comments to a future meeting for consideration if appropriate.

(b) Purchase of litter bins

Members **NOTED** the previous proposal to re-site existing litter bins would not be viable and were asked to consider the purchase of two new litter bins at a cost of £183 each plus installation costs. **RESOLVED** to purchase funded via the Community EMR

(c) CCTV

The Town Clerk advised that a site visit had been arranged with a company to offer advice on options to upgrade the existing cameras in the Playing Field with the addition of new cameras at the rear of the Public Hall in order to obtain a quotation for budget purposes.

(d) Pease Hill

Cllr Gunning advised he had received a request from Beaminster Horticultural Society to site a 6ft bench constructed from recycled plastic on an existing base at Pease Hill. Members **AGREED** to accept the donation of a bench.

376 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

377 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 financial implications.

(a) Public Toilet Project

The Town Clerk advised following a site visit and receipt of quotation from Wessex Water the costs to site a module building were looking to be prohibitive. Referring back to a previously discarded option the Town Clerk suggested that may now be the only option left to pursue. Members **AGREED** to explore further.

378 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman
14th January 2025

