



## TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

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

**334 PRESENT:** Cllr Gunning (Chairman), Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Monks and Cllr Turner; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Matthew Camps (Groundsman) and Mr M Runyard (Beaminster Football & Cricket Club).

**335 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Woods and Andrew Alexander (Head Groundsman/Maint. Manager).

**336 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**337 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**  
No declarations of interest were received.

### **338 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD**

#### **(a) Beaminster Branch RBL**

The Town Clerk advised of a request received from the Beaminster Branch RBL seeking permission to use the Playing Field alongside the pavilion to host the Branch's Centenary year event including a BBQ, live music and a marquee on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Members **AGREED** the request subject to the understanding that other facilities within the playing would remain accessible to the public, all litter must be cleared and removed from the field and proof of liability insurance provided.

#### **(b) Electronic access control to car park**

Cllr Monks advised the funding stream he had in mind for this project had opened and any application should be submitted prior to the deadline of mid April.

The Town Clerk advised two estimates had been obtained for the supply and installation of automatic barriers also the cost for electrical supply, in order to obtain firm quotations a decision had be made with regard to access control requirements. Following due consideration **AGREED** the barriers should be timed self locking with a pin code to override for hirers and users of the playing field facilities. Quotations to be obtained for consideration at the Council meeting scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**(c) Beaminster Cricket Club**

Members had previously been circulated with information supporting a request submitted by the Cricket club to store new roll-on wicket covers on the Playing Field in the vicinity of the new nets.

Members expressed some concerns with regard to the impact the covers would have on the grass if they were not regularly moved; also their vulnerability to vandalism. Following discussion members **AGREED** the request subject to maintaining the grass surface in good condition, vandalism issues must be dealt with by the club and proof of liability insurance provided.

**(d) Items raised by Cricket Club/Football Club representative**

On behalf of the BCCP Mr Runyard thanked the council for taking the time to meet with the Committee and for their offer of assistance with publicity.

He re-iterated the impact the wet conditions at the top of the field were having on the football fixtures.

Mr Camps confirmed advice had been sought from the drainage contractors, their advice had been to 'slit' the surface however it would be difficult to identify the necessary two week window in which to undertake the works.

A number of suggestions were put forward with a view to working with the football club to provide the time needed, these would be pursued by the football club and Cllr Monks.

**339 CEMETERY**

No issues were raised for discussion.

**340 PUBLIC HALL**

**(a) Replacement fascia's, guttering and soffits**

Members **NOTED** scaffolding would be erected week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 in preparation for the replacement of fascia's, guttering, soffits and painting of the first floor windows.

**(b) Honorary Townsperson board**

With four awards this year, due to the lack of space for all names on the Townsperson /board, the Town Clerk advised an additional board had been commissioned to match and sought guidance as to members preference with configuration when mounting on the wall. Members **AGREED** to site them side by side.

**341 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS**

In the absence of a representative no issues were raised.

**342 PUBLIC TOILETS**

No issues were raised.



Under this heading Cllr Monks advised he had attended a restorative justice meeting attended by Dorset Police, the family and the accused in relation to a vandalism incident that had taken place last year in the toilets. Sadly there had been another incident where burn marks were found on the ceiling.

**343 THE SQUARE**

No issues were raised for discussion.

**344 GENERAL**

**(a) Community Speed Watch**

Members had previously been circulated with information supporting a request received from the Community Speed Watch coordinator to participate in Dorset Police trials of auto speed watch camera(s). The camera's recorded vehicles speeding and the information sent to the speed watch team for action if necessary. The cost to purchase a camera, solar boost and 2 x signs would be in the region of £788 + VAT.

As it would be possible to relocate the cameras to various locations members **AGREED** in order to ensure maximum coverage of the town to purchase two cameras and associated items, to be funded from the Community Development EMR.

**(b) CB3 – amendment to time table**

Cllr Turner had previously circulated members with a copy of the proposed amendments to the time table in order to provide a service to South Perrott. Members were pleased to be able to provide a service to another village and **AGREED** the amendments.

**345 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**346 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) Cemetery extension**

Members had previously been circulated with an update on the position following a meeting with the land agent. **NOTED**.

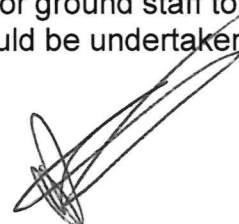
The Town Clerk appraised members of revised quotations obtained, regrettably after due consideration members **RESOLVED** not to proceed with the land purchase as it would put undue pressure on the council finances.

**(b) Hedge cutting**

Members were asked to consider a quotation received from S. Lee Garden Services in the sum of £370 to cut the boundary hedges at the front and side of the former church and remove cuttings. Due to the difficulty in council staff disposing of cuttings members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation.

**© Unauthorised memorial**

Members were appraised of unauthorised ground work undertaken following a recent interment, the nature of the work made it difficult for ground staff to maintain the area around the grave. **AGREED** remedial works should be undertaken to reinstate the grass surface.



It was **AGREED** that similar action should be taken with regard to a grave that had been raised.

**(c) Public Hall**

Cllr Monks advised it was likely an application submitted to Low Carbon Dorset to install secondary glazing, LED lights and solar panels on the flat roof would be successful however the Council would be required to match fund the grant in the region of £17,500. Following much discussion it was **AGREED** to refer the item to the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March for consideration by the Council.

**(d) Tree Surveys**

The Town Clerk reported that professional advice had been sought with regard to a small number of trees in the playing that had been a cause of concern to an adjacent neighbour, in their opinion the trees posed no threat to the neighbours property.  
**NOTED.**

**347 MEETING**

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 9.00pm.



Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2024