



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 28 April 2021 via Zoom at 7.00pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors D Budd (Chairman), V Green (Vice Chairman), B Ezzard, H Goodinge, S Kemp, L Kirk, C Turner.

Officers present: V Ricketts, Town Clerk; T Bailey, Committee Clerk

560. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

561. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

562. Public participation time

There were 13 members of the public present. One member of the public spoke of their experience as a result of the noise created by the materials used in the manufacture of the skate park and also of the anti-social behavior in the area of the skate park.

563. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17 March 2021 were presented by the Chairman.

Resolved that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

564. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

565. BT Red Phone Boxes

A request to adopt a BT phone box in Wareham was considered. It was noted that one phone box had already been adopted by the Town Council and that the one adjacent to it might also be available for adoption.

Resolved to establish if the phone box was well used and if not, whether it was available for adoption. It was agreed that it would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee when the required information would hopefully be available.

566. Hauses Field Skate Park

Further to concern from the community regarding anti-social behaviour and the noise created by the equipment installed at Hauses Field Skate park, a report was presented to the Committee for discussion.

The Town Clerk added a further update to her report to note that she had heard from the Acting Police Sergeant Simon Colvin, who had confirmed that there had been 7 reports of anti-social behaviour in the past nine months.

After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed by members that the skate park was of enormous value to the community and that it should be retained and improved.

The Town Clerk made the committee aware of a recent payment to the Council of community infrastructure levy (CIL) money. Members were unanimous in their agreement that this money could be used to start a fund to make improvements to the skate park.

Resolved that the skate park should be retained but that improvements be made. It was agreed that £11,000 of CIL money would initially be put towards the project.

567. Jubilee Planting

In light of the Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022, the Committee were asked to consider whether additional planting to commemorate the event should be planned.

Resolved that additional commemorative planting should be researched and planned if possible.

568. 2 Mill Lane

An update on the Mill Lane re-roofing project was provided by the Operations Manager. Scaffolding had been due to be erected on 19 April 2021, but unfortunately there had been a delay in the erection of scaffolding due to a vehicle blocking access for the scaffolding company, but it was hoped that the time would be made up. Scaffolding was eventually erected on 29 April and work to the roof was due to commence during the week commencing 3 May 2021.

569. Parking Permits – Terms and Conditions

Members considered whether the Town Council should revise its charges for amendments to parking permits to reflect those of Dorset Council.

Resolved that the charges for amendments on parking permits mirror those of Dorset Council ie. £10.

570. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no items deemed urgent by the Chairman.

571. Date of next meeting

Due to The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 not being extended and, therefore, being unable to continue with virtual meetings, the date of the next meeting would be confirmed when the Government's lockdown measures have been lifted.

572. Confidential session

At the conclusion of this part of the Agenda, the Chairman moved the following resolution:

Resolved that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the nature of the business to be transacted.

573. Electrical Safety Check

The Operations Manager presented the three quotes that had been received for the Town Hall and its Annexe, the Museum and 2 Mill Lane, to carry out an electrical safety check. In addition, the replacement of faulty emergency lighting had been quoted for.

Resolved to accept the quote in the sum of £1970 excluding VAT for the electrical safety check and £483 excluding VAT for the replacement of faulty lighting with LED lighting.

574. Opening of Public Toilets

The Town Clerk explained the current arrangements for the opening of the Town Council owned public toilets and the disadvantages of relying on the good will arrangement that was currently in place.

Resolved that the Town Clerk and the Operations Manager further investigate and initiate a scheme that would allow for the employment of a 'Town Hall Keeper' on a zero hour contract to facilitate the opening of the public toilets.

Chairman.....

Date.....