



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 13 October 2021 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham 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: K Noble, Deputy Town Clerk, T Bailey, Operations Manager

191. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies of absence.

192. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

193. Public participation time

There were 7 members of the public present. A member of the public raised concerns regarding the possibility of another skate park being installed. The resident read out statements written by her 13 year old and 11 year old children, who were pleased the ramps had been removed as the loud music and swearing had stopped and they could now enjoy being in their garden.

A second member of the public raised concerns regarding new facilities being installed and stated that the field was not big enough and it did not meet the criteria. The resident requested that an independent acoustic survey was undertaken, and that other council land was also considered as part of the project.

Another member of the public stated that it had been much quieter since the ramps had been removed and there was no late-night noise or urinating in bushes.

The Chair thanked the residents and confirmed the skate park would not automatically be replaced and any legislative criteria would be met.

194. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 21 July 2021 were presented by the Chairman.

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

195. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

A query was raised whether the dirt jumps at Hauses Field were being used and this was confirmed, although they were not suitable for skateboards.

At this juncture it was agreed to change the order of business so agenda item 9, the Recreation Facilities update report, could be considered next.

196. Recreational Facilities Project update report

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief overview of the written report.

A query was raised whether the wheeled park could be age determinate. This would not be possible and could not be overseen. The design of the facility could be aimed to encourage younger users as there was a larger skate park at Wool that teenagers could use. It was confirmed that a public consultation would be undertaken regarding the design if the project went ahead.

Resolved that the loan questionnaire should be amended to clearly state that the project included the four play areas.

The update report was noted.

(7 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

197. Budget Comparison Report

A query was raised regarding the water bills at the Quay toilets, the Operations Manager agreed to check if the figure was correct.

The overspend on the recreation ground maintenance budget related to the safety surface for Hauses Field as there was no separate budget.

The Operations Manager was asked if any more major works were foreseen at Mill Lane, and it was confirmed there was not.

The report was noted.

198. Operations Manager's Update Report

The Operations Manager presented her report and gave a further verbal update. The electrical survey identified issues with the fuse boards at the Town Hall and a report would be presented at the next meeting.

One of the Town Hall boilers has broken and it was confirmed that the gas alarm system also needed replacing. Quotations were being sought. A Councillor suggested that alternative methods of heating should be considered and that the Buildings Project Task and Finish Group should consider requesting a presentation from Dorset Council's Sustainability Team.

Quotations are being sought for the rendering of the Quay toilets wall and replacing the external doors and frames.

The 'No Entry' signs at the exit of Howard's Lane Car Park are going to be refurbished and moved so they are more visible to drivers coming from the Moretons Lane direction.

Members were informed that the next phase of electric vehicle charging points were being installed in Dorset Council Car Parks at Bonnets Lane and Streche Road.

A query was raised whether the Purbeck View verge had been cut. It was confirmed that it was not the responsibility of the Town Council nor part of the caravan parks lease. Dorset Council had cut half of the verge. Councillor Ezzard agreed to follow this up with Dorset Council.

199. Purchase of a strimmer

The Operations Manager presented her report regarding the purchase of a petrol strimmer. The proposed budget would need reviewing due to it now being overspent.

Resolved that a strimmer is purchased at the cost of £864.00. A virement is made from the play area maintenance budget 3650/1.

200. Parking Permits

A report detailing proposed changes to Dorset Council’s Car Park permit charges was received and a lengthy debate pursued whilst Members considered whether to amend the Town Council’s permit prices for 2022/23.

An explanation of the different types of permits was given and it was confirmed they are purchased by both residents and businesses.

Resolved that it be recommended to increase charges for reserved bay permits to £520.00 and unreserved bay permits to £400.00 for 2022/23.

201. Structural Survey of Town Hall

Members considered if a structural/building survey should be obtained as it would be a good base document for the Buildings Project Task and Finish Group.

Resolved that an in-depth building survey is undertaken and, as no budget is available, monies were taken from general reserves.

202. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

Councillor Ezzard raised concerns regarding a breach of the fence behind the new bus shelter, north of the level crossing. It was agreed this was a matter for Dorset Planning Enforcement.

203. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 24 November 2021.

Chairman..... Date.....