



**Notes of the Informal Meeting of the Amenities Committee Members held on Wednesday 2 February 2022 via Zoom at 7.00pm.**

**Members Present:** Councillors D Budd, V Green, B Ezzard, S Kemp, L Kirk, C Turner

**Officers present:** V Ricketts, Town Clerk; K Noble, Deputy Town Clerk

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor H Goodinge.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Public participation time**

There were two members of the public present. One member of the public spoke regarding the wheeled park consultation and felt the wording was biased and misleading. The resident expressed how important it is that the Council is transparent about the project and collaborates with the community.

A second member of the public spoke in regard to the wheeled park and agreed with the previous comments. The resident stated there is a great amount of distrust and the children felt let down by the Council. There needed to be better working with the community and the community were willing to help fundraise for a facility.

**4. Town Hall Locking Up Protocol for Museum Volunteers**

The Museum Committee had requested a protocol be established to prevent any future confusion.

The Town Clerk answered some queries raised.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to approve the protocol, subject to the word 'shut' being replaced with 'secured', was agreed.

**5. Replacement of External Doors to the Public Conveniences at the Quay**

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to accept quotation C at a cost of £1,330, as the most competitive, was agreed. It includes solid hardwood doors and frames with marine grade door furniture and stainless-steel kickbacks, with works to be schedule in 2022/23 financial year.

**6. Replacement of Boiler Pumps in Town Hall**

A query was raised if any of this year's budget could be used towards the cost of the works, and it was confirmed the budget was overspent due to the roof repairs.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to recommend to the Policy, Resources, and Finances Committee to approve this expenditure so that parts required for the

two pumps are ordered without delay and that the expenditure be taken from the reserves was agreed.

#### **7. Re-rendering of the External Wall to the Public Conveniences at the Quay**

The Town Clerk explained that it would not be cost effective to repair the rendering.

A query was raised regarding the map on the wall, and it was confirmed it would not be affected by the rendering.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to accept quotation C at a cost of £1,824 and the work be scheduled to coincide with the new financial year when the budget would be available was agreed. It was also agreed that if the contractor was not available, the contractor for quotation B would be approached and if available quotation B would be accepted.

#### **8. Chargeable Toilets**

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the report and the feedback from other Councils, all of which had negative experiences with chargeable toilets due to the increase in vandalism.

Several concerns were raised.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer not to pursue the matter any further due to the cost, equalities issues and risk factors, as well as the anecdotal evidence from other Dorset towns and the ill feeling from residents that could result when they are already facing an 8.64% increase in Council Tax for the coming financial year, was agreed.

#### **9. Customer Service and Visitor Centre Quotations**

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the report. Some queries were raised regarding equipment required, the curtains being altered and ventilation. It was confirmed these matters would be considered at a later stage.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to award the contract to contractor B for the sum of £12,660 + VAT, was agreed.

#### **10. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Feasibility Study**

The Deputy Clerk gave an overview of the report.

The report stated that parking was only for a maximum of 2 hours in the Howards Lane Car Park, which is incorrect as the maximum stay is 4 hours.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to proceed to the next stage was agreed.

#### **11. Recreational Facilities Project – Tender Documents**

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the project and confirmed that following the public consultation the application for the public works loan had been submitted.

The wheeled park was being dealt with separately and there was currently a public consultation being undertaken. Some funding for a wheeled park had been secured and together with town council monies, approximately £100,000 was available.

A query was raised regarding the appointment of the consultant, it was confirmed this had already been agreed by Council.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to accept the updated tender documents was agreed.

**12. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent**

There were no matters of urgency.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next informal meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16 March at 7.00 pm.**