



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

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

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, G Pettifer, Deputy Clerk.

602. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Turner.

603. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

604. Public participation time

There was one member of the public present.

605. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 11 January 2023 were **APPROVED** as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

606. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

607. Quay Toilets Wall

The Deputy Clerk presented the report noting the wall could be finished so as to blend in with its surroundings by painting with a stone-coloured paint which could be done by the Grounds team.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Grounds team to paint the exterior with a grey-coloured masonry paint.

608. Howards Lane Toilets' Wall

The deputy Clerk presented a report which was discussed at length, with particular focus on anti-social behaviour and vandalism which was affecting the public conveniences.

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk investigate options and quotes to remedy the problem for a future meeting.

609. Update on Play Areas

The Deputy Clerk presented the report noting the progress of the play areas, confirming that all had been completed in time for the half-term break in February.

An official opening was planned for Saturday 25th March, at 11.00am.

The Clerk reported that vandalism to the wet-pour surface and a seating bench at the Recreation Ground had been reported to the police. The Clerk asked all Councillors to urge residents to report all acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour to the police.

610. Tree Survey

The Deputy Clerk presented a report noting the need to carry out a tree survey of tree stock in Howards Lane car park, Recreation Ground and Northmoor areas. Three anonymised quotes were considered.

It was **RESOLVED** a tree survey be undertaken and Dorset Council, Places Services, was selected to complete the work at a cost of £357.50+vat.

611. Review of the hire charges for the Town Hall and Recreation Ground facilities

The deputy Clerk presented a report noting the comparison to other local facilities, but that it was difficult to find like for like. The Committee considered the number of categories which had prices and felt it was too complicated and required simplification.

It was **RESOLVED** to propose to Policy Resources and Finance Committee the combining of categories Community and Voluntary Groups, which should also include Charities, and using the charges which were current for the voluntary groups in 2022/23. Commercial bookings for the Corn Exchange and Council Chamber, and for the Recreation Ground facilities would remain the same.

612. EPC Rating

The Deputy Clerk presented the report noting the need to have an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) carried out on the Town Hall Building and Pavilion or lose the ability to rent out the spaces.

The Committee considered three anonymised quotes.

It was **RESOLVED** to instruct Reneweco Supplies to carry out the survey and report at a cost of £620.00+vat.

613. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

The Clerk noted the staff safety issues in respect of the cleaning of the public toilets and relayed the view of the Health and Safety Advisor as well as the Internal Auditor, who had both agreed it should be raised at the meeting. Both had agreed that outsourcing the toilet cleaning and locking up to a cleaning company was the most responsible option. The Clerk had sought 5 quotes with only one company being willing to quote on a fixed two-year costing, and although no decision could legally be made at the meeting, it was felt that it was an urgent safety issue which could not wait. The matter would return for retrospective approval at the next meeting, with a full report of costings, budgets and arrangements.

614. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 5th April 2023.

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