

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2009 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM.

Present: Councillors Mrs. P Bowyer-Davis, D Budd (Chairman), Mrs. D Cleaton, Miss. M Cotton, D. Critchley, K Critchley.

Public Present: Mr. R Conway (Environmental Health Officer, PDC), PC Moira Connolly, One Member of Public, Five Youths.

Officer present: Mr. R M Curtis, Town Clerk, Mrs. J Hale, Admin Assistant

76. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/PUBLIC COMMENT

P.C Moira Connolly spoke on behalf of a representation of five youths who used the Hauses Field BMX Area. She stated that the official facilities provided were well used but the young users of that area felt that more facilities needed to be provided in line with the unofficial earth mounds previously made by the youngsters before they were replaced with a BMX area.

Three representatives of the youngsters provided a plan, with a key of commonly used terms, of their ideas and presented their personal reasons for wanting earth mounds at the site. They answered questions from the Committee and stated that they represented the users of the BMX area and that should the provision of earth mounds take place, the young users offered to help with the work.

The Chairman thanked them for their presentation and the well thought out work that had gone into the plan. It was suggested that the Committee make a site visit to the area and the matter be put on the next Agenda, which was noted by the Town Clerk.

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. A Tighe.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

79. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 4th March 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

80. MATTERS ARISING from the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2009

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman suggested that, since Mr. Richard Conway, PDC and P.C Moira Connolly were in attendance to answer questions on Control of Dog Fouling at Hauses Field Agenda, Item 7 be moved to the next item on the Agenda. The committee agreed.

81. CONTROL OF DOG FOULING AT HAUSES FIELD

Mr. Richard Conway congratulated the Town Council on an excellent report. He stated that Purbeck District Council had a Dog Warden Service which gave some available capacity to the problem but that there was only one Dog Warden to cover the whole Purbeck area. At present only 20% of the Dog Warden's time was available for monitoring dog fouling; most of this was spent in Swanage as the area where most complaints were received. Purbeck District Council had only received one complaint since December for the Hauses Field Area. He and PcSO Shewbridge had visited the site and did not think that there was a huge problem at Hauses Field.

Purbeck District Council had undertaken Public Consultation for a Dog Control Order across the whole of Purbeck; this had received a negative response of 90% against more dog fouling legislation. He felt it important that dog owners did not feel they were being unfairly treated and stated that the majority of dog owners were responsible. Unfortunately it only took one or two irresponsible people to create the problem and it was both difficult to catch them and difficult to enforce legislation. It was suggested that the Town Council could designate Hauses Field as a controlled area, although this would have to go through Public Consultation. It was also suggested that a Town Council employee could receive in house training at a cost of approximately £150 and be authorised under the new order (Cleaner Neighbourhood Act of 2007) to issue a fixed penalty notice. He agreed that he would be happy to ask the Dog Warden to monitor Hauses Field.

P.C. Moira Connolly reported that she had attended a PACT meeting, two months ago, which looked at the issue of Dog Fouling. There had been a varying response. Two PACT members had created white envelopes explaining the reasons against dog fouling on the outside and bags on the inside. These envelopes were then handed out to dog owners using the area. Signs had also been placed around the area. These actions had made an improvement in the situation. She felt it important that the public be made aware of the change in perception of the area from one of waste ground to one of a maintained park area. A bag dispenser on the dog bins had proved to be very effective in some areas, also target signs at entrances of car parks or entrances as most dogs fouled within 50 yards of entering an open area. It had been noted that stray dogs were causing a problem and it was suggested that the Dog Warden be asked to tackle this aspect.

In discussion, the Committee felt that education of the public rather than the legislative route was the preferred option. The Chairman thanked Mr. Richard Conway and P.C. Moira Connolly for their participation.

It was:

RESOLVED that a) a site visit be made to Hauses Field, b) The Town Clerk include an article on education on this matter in the next Wareham Directory, c) An informal approach be made to the caretaker/groundsman concerning training for an enforcement order, d) this matter be put on the next Agenda.

82. LIGHTING FOR FOOTPATH AT HAUSES FIELD

The Town Clerk verified that the footpath was in the ownership of Dorset County Council and gave a costing of £1,400 plus £22.50 per metre for fencing, laying of cable backfill and reinstating grass verge, for four bollard style lights to be installed along the footpath, which had been obtained from SEC Lighting Services. After consideration of the report it was:

RESOLVED that a) bollard lighting be installed b) investigation be made with the Finance Assistant as to budgeting for this item c) a copy of the report be sent to P.C. Connolly, d) a site visit be made to Hauses Field, e) this matter be put on the next Agenda.

83. TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

The Town Clerk gave a presentation of photographs taken at the opening of the Mistover Road Play Area on 27th March 2009. He also gave a short report on all Play Areas and confirmed that there would be a ROSPA inspection of all play areas in May.

Drax Avenue

Repair of rear wall needed.

Hauses Field

No work to play area needed.

Mistover Road

- After initial watering difficulties the newly laid turf had now taken.
- The first gate doesn't close properly, Safe & Sound to adjust under guarantee.
- Slabs need to be put down by first gate to stop erosion, this to be done by caretaker/groundsman out of budget funding.
- The see-saw's powdered coating was starting to crack, Safe & Sound to repaint under guarantee.
- Litter bin does not have lid, replacement bin with lid to be obtained, present bin to be moved to another area.
- Bench to be repainted and placed in a more suitable position.
- High level chain link fencing to be continued to enclose full area.
- Overhanging hedge at rear of a Bere Road property to be trimmed.

Recreation Ground

- Two swing seats needed replacement. To be installed by caretaker/groundsman – (seats have arrived).

Amenities 15.4.09

- The paintwork of the play equipment needed repainting.
- Two benches needed repainting.

On a proposal by D Budd and seconded by Mrs. P Bowyer-Davis it was:

RESOLVED that a) quotes be obtained for extending the fencing at Mistover Road, b) authority be delegated to the Town Clerk and Chairman to authorise expenditure for fencing, c) that two single prohibition signs for No Ball Games, No Dogs, and the Age Limit for users of play equipment be obtained and placed at the side of both gates.

84. **PHASE III WORKS – UPDATE ON TENDERS PROCESS**

The Town Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a report from Mr. C Pacey.

It was felt important to obtain an approximate provisional figure for costing as soon as possible in order that a provisional enquiry or application could be made to Viridor for funding for this project. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the need for 10% third party funding and prepare a 'pre-application enquiry'.

It was:

RESOLVED that a) that D Budd (Chairman - Amenities), K Critchley (Chairman - Policy, Resources and Finance) and the Town Clerk be given authority to pursue funding issues after reading the report and the obtaining of tenders within the regulations of Standing Orders.

85. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and members of the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

86. **RE-DECORATION OF TOWN HALL**

The committee considered quotations for redecoration of the Council Chamber and Stairwell, General Office and Lobby. Quotations submitted were as follows:

	Council Chamber	Stairwell, General Office & Lobby	Total
A. Lawrence	£1,675	£2,150	£3,825
R.A. Lorberg	£1,645	£2,840	£4,485

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED a) that the quotation from A. Lawrence be accepted, b) if sum is over budget allowed, take additional amount from supplementary budget after consultation with Policy, Resources and Finance Committee at their meeting on 11th May 2009.

87. **ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR REPORT OR FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Wareham Cricket Club

The Town Clerk read a letter received from Wareham Cricket Club concerning provision of funding for repair of the Artificial Pitch at Wareham Recreation Ground. The Wareham Cricket Club were unsuccessful in their bid for funding to the Cricket Trust. The cost of repair the Artificial Pitch was quoted as £1,780 + £267 VAT a total of £2,047. They had agreed to provide £890 towards the cost and asked for match funding from the Town Council. The Town Council had already agreed to provide £780 towards the cost of repair; this would mean a request for an additional £110 to provide professional refurbishment of the artificial wicket.

The Committee felt it important to complete this matter to allow the repair before the start of the cricket season.

It was agreed that the Town Mayor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Amenities Committee the additional expenditure of £110 under the Town Council's emergency procedure set out in Section 7.10(b) of Standing Orders.

Site Meeting at Hauses Field

It was agreed that a site meeting be held at Hauses Field at 6.15pm on Monday 27th April 2009 to be attended by Members of the Committee and the Town Clerk, to discuss all matters concerning Hauses Field, prior to any meeting to be arranged with representatives of the BMX area users.

87. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the site meeting at **6.15pm on Monday 27th April 2009 at Hauses Field** and the scheduled meeting for **7.00pm on Wednesday 10th June 2009 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.**

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm

..... Chairman