



Town Hall
East Street
Wareham
Dorset
BH20 4NS

3 August 2023

To: All Members of the Amenities Committee

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held on **9 AUGUST 2023** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at **7.00pm** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Nicola Gray
Town Clerk

Please contact the Town Council office on 01929 553006 if you need any further information on this Agenda.

Members of the Amenities Committee

Councillor V Green (Chairman)
Councillor B Ezzard
Councillor L Kirk
Councillor S Wheatley

Councillor D Budd (Vice
Chairman) Councillor H Goodinge
Councillor C Turner



9 AUGUST 2023

1. Apologies for absence

To receive, and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence. (LGA1972 s85)

2. Declarations of interest

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk. (Localism Act 2011 s29-34)

3. Public participation time

An opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest, ask a question or make a statement or present a petition or be part of a deputation. Public participation time will be conducted in accordance with the Council's 'Protocol for Public Participation Time' which is limited to 15 minutes, with no individual speaker exceeding a maximum of three minutes each. (LGA1972 s100)

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 28 JUNE 2023

To confirm, as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee (LGA1972 sch12).

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 JUNE 2023

To consider any matters arising from the previous minutes of the Committee.

6. Pavilion Lighting – to follow

To consider and agree the replacement of lighting in the Recreation Ground pavilion.

7. Orchard Proposal – verbal report

To discuss a request from Cllr Cotton and Sustainable Wareham regarding the development of a community orchard in Wareham.

8. North Street Phone Box

To consider the options for the phone box in North Street.

9. Wildflower area in Northmoor Park

To consider the proposal from residents in Tantinoby Lane to establish a small wildflower area in Northmoor Park.

10. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

For report, information or for the agenda at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee. Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).

11. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER** at 7pm.



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

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

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk and RFO

Cllr Budd welcomed Cllr Critchley, Cllr Russell and Cllr Humphries to the meeting and invited them to take part in the discussions.

A 001/23 Election of Chair

Cllr Budd noted that Cllr V Green had expressed her willingness to stand as Chair of Amenities for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Cllr V Green was proposed by Cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Kemp.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr V Green be elected as Chair of Amenities for the 2023/24 municipal year.

A002/23 Appointment of Vice Chair

Cllr Budd was proposed by Cllr Ezzard and seconded by Cllr Kirk.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Budd be elected as Vice Chair of Amenities for the 2023/24 municipal year.

A 003/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr V Green and Cllr Goodinge.

A 004/23 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A 005/23 Public participation time

There were two members of the public present who spoke regarding the skate park and the need for the new facility to have monitored cameras in situ to prevent crime and disorder, particularly the issues around county lines whereby children are groomed by drug dealers to delivery drugs. Cllr Budd thanked the members of the public and advised that the Clerk would ensure the matter would be included for consideration when the new skate park is being finalised.

A 006/23 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17 May 2023 were **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

A 007/23 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

The Clerk advised that the wrong dishwasher had been ordered and was therefore being returned. The correct one would be ordered once the refund had been received.

Cllr Ezzard noted the “Wareham Stones” looked excellent and asked that the thanks of the Council were passed on to Mr Andrews. The Clerk advised that the matter would be on the Full Council agenda to ensure formal noting.

A 008/23 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) Line Markings

Members considered the report in respect of the line marking which had faded to almost nothing at the MUGA.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Coast Line Markings Ltd at a cost of £1,240.00 inc VAT, to measure out and repaint the lines at the MUGA.

A 009/23 Council Chamber Air Conditioning

Members considered the report and discussed the lack of budget to cover the item. Cllr Critchley noted the matter had been discussed previously and recognised that the hire option utilised by Savers was not a practical solution for the Council Chamber due to noise, size, and the need to have a vent out of a window. The option to have a dual function pump, would be cheaper in the winter months than the current heaters, which were noisy and inefficient, but the fact remained that the options were costly and out of budget which would require recommendation to Policy, Resources and Finance.

Cllr Budd noted the matter should be budgeted for 2024/25 if the Amenities Committee felt it a necessary project.

It was further noted that there were a number of projects which involved large expense and had the potential to be dealt with as a combined project rather than smaller piecemeal projects.

It was **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to the Buildings Project Working Party with a view to considering the Town Hall required works as one larger project.

A 010/23 The Quay Emergency Lighting and Wiring

The Clerk advised that the report was incorrect, and the Deputy Clerk had apologised for the error, however it left the report with only one contractor which may incur further costs once work had commenced due to the lack of detail in the quote.

It was **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred back for further quotes in order for consideration to be given and a decision to be made.

A 011/23 Howard’s Lane Public Toilets Damp problems and Plumbing

The Chairman agreed that items 11 and 13 on the agenda be considered together as they were intrinsically linked.

The Clerk noted the matter was a major issue with the toilets fast becoming not fit for purpose due to the damp. The repair of the plumbing may go some way to helping to reduce the damp, but the extent of the damp was unknown and the potential costs to repair could run into several thousands of pounds.

Members considered the initial plumbing work was needed to keep the toilets open for the foreseeable future, with the bigger damp issue needing to be considered as part of a redevelopment project by the Buildings Project Working Party.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint J L Plumbing & Heating at a cost of £430 +VAT to carry out the plumbing repairs in Howards Lane toilets.

It was **RESOLVED** to refer the Howards Lane Toilets damp problem to the Buildings Project Working Party.

A 012/23 North Street Finger Post

Cllr Ezzard asked if the signage would be identical as it was previously, which included the Tourist Information, Railway Station and Wareham Forest. The Clerk confirmed it would be a like for like replacement.

Members discussed the budget implication and which budget would fund the repair.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the repair at a cost of £1,019.40 +VAT by Normtec, and the expense be made from the Town Features and Furniture, General Maintenance budget.

A 013/23 Town Hall Roof Repairs

Members considered the report and noted the need to have the work completed to prevent further leaks into the building.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Complete Roofing Solutions at a cost of £886+VAT to carry out the repair work, with the expense being met form the Town Hall maintenance budget.

A 014/23 Flagpole

Cllr Russell presented the report noting the various locations and the feasibility of each in respect of crowds of people gathering. The cost of the pole and flag with delivery would be approximately £547.00 but this did not include the planning application and installation.

Members discussed the proposal, and it was **RESOLVED** to defer the matter until budget setting in the Autumn when the Committee could consider it further and decide if it was appropriate to include in the budget for 2024/25.

A 015/23 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no items deemed urgent.

A 016/23 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 9 August 2023.

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



AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: 9 AUGUST 2023

Agenda Item: 8

Subject:	North Street Phone Box
Prepared by:	Gale Pettifer, Deputy Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To consider the options for the phone box in North Street.
Background:	<p>In 2012, British Telecom (BT) announced that due to a decline in demand for public payphones, many of its traditional red boxes were being decommissioned and sold off.</p> <p>Wareham in Bloom Committee purchased a phone box in North Street for the sum of £1.00, which was restored to its original 1936 condition, including the installation of a Bakelite phone.</p> <p>The intention being that the kiosk would be a 'museum piece' for the public to view on special occasions. The phone box was officially received by the town on Saturday 23 April 2016, and is sited in North Street. Since 2016, the phone box has not been opened to the public, as intended, although the restored features, including the Bakelite phone remain.</p> <p>In 2023, a member of the public suggested that the phone box be planted-up as part of the wider town 'in bloom' scheme for the town (see Appendix 1).</p>
Key Points	<p>The phone box does not seem to be currently utilised as museum piece. The planting of the phone box would be external and would not affect any of the internal, restored features.</p> <p>Planting the phone box could be a statement piece in the town's overall planting scheme.</p>
Implications	<p>There are resource implications, as Wareham Town Council staff or Wareham Community Growers, would be responsible for planting and maintenance, both of which have limited capacity.</p> <p>There are cost implications, as planters to cover the external sides of the phone box would need to be made/acquired/ or purchased. Additional plants would also need to be purchased. There is a current reserve held from donations to Wareham in Bloom, which has approximately £6,500.00.</p> <p>There may be some resistance from residents who prefer to keep the traditional features of the public pay phone and honour those who restored it.</p> <p>The successful planting scheme could become a feature for the town.</p>
Recommendation	To consider the options for the phone box in North Street.

Appendix 1:



Example of the planting up of decommissioned phone boxes, which is a popular use for them.



AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: 9 AUGUST 2023

Agenda Item: 9

Subject:	Wildflower Area in Northmoor Park.
Prepared by:	Gale Pettifer, Deputy Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To consider the proposal from residents in Tantinoby Lane to establish a small wildflower area in Northmoor Park.
Background:	<p>In July 2023, residents from Tantinoby Lane approached the Council regarding using a section of Northmoor Park, near the sensory garden, as a wildflower area (see Appendix 1). <i>(Initial investigations by residents were conducted with Dorset Council, who supported the scheme until they realised that the ground in question was owned by Wareham Town Council and consequently redirected the resident's enquiry.)</i></p> <p>The resident said, "We and the volunteer team of gardeners who maintain the sensory garden were saying how lovely it would be if this area could be allowed to become a wildflower area. It's to the left of the sensory garden as you enter Northmoor park from Tantinoby Lane, there isn't any seating there and no one walks on it (from what I've observed) so I was wondering if the town council could grant permission for this?"</p> <p>"The idea would be to plant pollinating wildflowers for the bees, I've actually got a Willow sapling that has outgrown its pot if it's possible to plant that too? I will look forward to hearing your thoughts. The community gardening team are keen to prepare the area and maintain it and my husband and I would be happy to buy the seeds and help in any way required. If the town council is able to grant permission, it would be much appreciated. It's so sad when you walk around Northmoor to see how many people are cutting down established hedges, trees and completely tarmac-ing driveways – it would be lovely to give nature a chance to thrive somewhere that people can't destroy on a whim."</p>
Key Points	<p>The area in question is currently used for temporary parking by contractors (grass cutting) and Council vehicles (both Dorset and Wareham Town Council) when attending to Northmoor Park for emptying bins, litter picking, playground maintenance etc. The loss of this amenity would mean that contractors and staff would have to find street parking elsewhere and carry equipment from farther away.</p> <p>Wareham Town Council has no specific policy on environmental enhancements, such as the creation of wildflower meadows, and only tree planting is mentioned in the current Action Plan.</p> <p>This project is community-led, and the area would be maintained by volunteers.</p> <p>WILDFLOWER PROS</p> <p>Wildflowers are native species that are low maintenance, less invasive, tolerant of pests and diseases, and, once established, are tolerant to dry conditions and need little watering.</p>

	<p>Wildflower areas attract wildlife, including insects, birds, reptiles, and small mammals. They reduce air pollution, help to fight climate change, and promote sustainability.</p> <p>WILDFLOWER CONS</p> <p>To be environmentally effective, wildflower areas need ample space.</p> <p>Wildflower areas are perceived as unkempt and scruffy by some members of the public. They need continual maintenance to ensure grasses and weeds, such as bindweed, do not dominate the area.</p> <p>Wildflower areas need to be planned meticulously to avoid introducing toxic or harmful plants, undesirable weeds, and non-native or invasive species.</p>
Implications	<p>There are no staffing implications in respect of maintenance and care. As previously mentioned, however, this will have an implication for access to carry out work in Northmoor Park and surrounding areas.</p> <p>There are no cost implications if the volunteers maintain the area for the duration of the project.</p> <p>The development of a wildflower area could invite complaints from other residents, due to the perception of untidiness, and reputational damage to the Council.</p> <p>The successful development of a wildflower area could contribute to local environmental sustainability and encourage the adoption of wildflowers, in local gardens.</p>
Recommendation	To consider the proposal for a wildflower area in Northmoor Park.

Appendix 1:



