



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 9 August 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, L Kirk, C Turner.

Cllr M Cotton was also in attendance.

Officers present: G Pettifer, Deputy Town Clerk

A 017/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wheatley.

A 018/23 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A 019/23 Public participation time

There were three members of the public present.

One member of the public spoke in support of minute number A 022/23 Orchard Proposal.

Two members of the public spoke in support of A 023/23 Wildflower area in Northmoor Park.

A 020/23 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 28 June 2023 were **APPROVED** and would be signed following the meeting.

A 021/23 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Turner asked about the progress of the dishwasher for the main kitchen in the Town Hall. The Deputy Clerk reported that a refund was imminent from Trade Point UK, which would enable the purchase of the correct model to be made as soon as possible.

Cllr Budd asked about the progress regarding the electrical wiring and emergency lighting at The Quay toilets. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that this issue was being looking into it.

Cllr Green reported that the reinstallation of the line markings on the basketball/five-a-side football MUGA had been schedule for Friday 11 August but was being postponed due to poor weather. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before the end of August.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the poor state of the public toilets in Howards Lane had been discussed in PR&F Committee (PRF10/23 – 20 June 2023). It was noted that a report was being prepared for consideration by the Amenities Committee and that recommendations for options be referred to the Policy Resources and Finance Committee.

It was agreed that items 7 and 9 be moved up the agenda to enable the members of the public present to hear the discussions and resolutions for both items.

A 022/23 Orchard Proposal

The project was discussed at length, and whilst Councillors were in support, it was acknowledged that there was no suitable land available in the gift of Wareham Town Council. The Committee recommended that the project organisers approach other local landowners for suitable areas.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair of the Amenities Committee would write a letter of support to Sustainable Wareham for the project, with the intention that this would encourage wider support from local landowners.

A 023/23 Wildflower area Northmoor Park

Members considered the report and were supportive in principle of a wildflower area being established near the sensory area in Northmoor Park, but felt more information was required.

The proposal to repair the concrete path next to the sensory garden was rejected.

It was **RESOLVED** to support for the project subject to the receipt for approval of project management and ongoing maintenance plans from the Tantinoby Lane residents.

A 024/23 Pavilion Lighting

The Deputy Clerk reported that this issue had been resolved by the Grounds Team and as the pavilion lighting was fully operational as a result there would be no item being presented to the Committee.

A 025/23 North Street phone box

Members discussed the history of the telephone box at length and the proposal to use it for flower displays.

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the phone box as an item of heritage interest in the town and to have an interpretation sign installed to explain its significance.

A 026/23 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

Cllr Green reported that the main electrical connection for the electric charging points in Howards Lane car park would be taking place between 11 and 15 September, with the charging points themselves being installed shortly after.

Cllr Green reported that Wessex Water were due to start work fixing the leak on the sewerage pumping main on Monday 21st August.

Cllr Green gave an update on the Christmas Market event, planned for Saturday 9 December. The road closure application had been submitted and acknowledged by Dorset Highways, with the Event Notification having been sent to Dorset Council Safety Advisory Group. Meetings with Swanage

Rotary and Wareham Rotary had been positive and volunteer support offered.

The Deputy Clerk reported incidents of graffiti in the town and at the Recreation Ground. This had been reported to police and residents asked, to report any information regarding the culprits on 101.

The Deputy Clerk reported that an Octoberfest booking had been taken at the Town Hall, which would be a ticketed event and a fundraiser for local charities. The operation of the building, including the museum, would not be affected and an event banner would be erected outside the Town Hall. The organisers were working closely with the Clerk regarding the event.

Cllr Budd drew attention to the budget of £4,000 for the maintenance of 2 Mill Lane and asked that quotes be obtained for external painting and decorating for consideration by the Amenities Committee.

A 027/23 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 September 2023, at 7pm.

Chairman.....and ... Date.....