

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crewkerne on Monday 11 March 2019 at 7.01 p.m.

PRESENT:

Cllrs. D. Wakeman (Chairman), C. Aslett, M. Best, P. Bradly, Mrs K. Head, Miss K. Pritchard and Mrs A. Singleton.

In attendance: Town Clerk Mr P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk Ms L. Gowers, Amenities Operations Manager Mr M. Jay, 1 member of the press and 3 members of the public.

52 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

18/19

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. B. Hodgson (work commitments), Cllr. Mrs R. Jackson (personal), Cllr. R. Pailthorpe (unwell), Cllr. Mrs A. Stuart (personal) and Cllr. N. Sturtivant (unwell).

53 OPEN FORUM

18/19

A member of the Crewkerne in Bloom group advised that they had entered Crewkerne into the South West in Bloom competition. She explained that the competition focussed not only on horticulture but also on the environment and on community working. A route would need to be planned around the town for the judging and the group intended to engage with owners and agents of shops and premises, to ensure that the town looked at its best for the event.

Two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

54 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

18/19

It was **AGREED** that the **Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 14 January 2019 be APPROVED.**

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18/19

Cllr. Mrs Head declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (rugby club signage and scoreboard).

Cllr. Mrs Singleton declared a personal interest in items 8 (rugby club signage and scoreboard) and 9 (cricket club scoreboard).

56 PROJECT AND WORKS REPORT

18/19 To receive the March 2019 report

The key points of discussion on the March 2019 Project and Works report were as follows:

Projects

- Town Hall exterior walls, doors and windows: the Operations Manager reported that the contractor was due to commence work on the eastern face of the building in April.

Cllr. Bradley stated that he had now read the report from the survey which had been undertaken and he noted that the report had pointed out both the masonry issues and the issues of damp within the building.

The Chairman stated that remedial work to the exterior walls had been a priority for the Council as the Operations Manager had highlighted that the risk of falling pieces of masonry represented a Health & Safety risk.

Cllr. Best added that the survey report had also highlighted that the stone finials were in a very poor state and, from a Health & Safety viewpoint, needed to be removed and replaced. This task required the sides of the building to be scaffolded. Given the high cost of erecting scaffolding, it had been agreed to undertake the remedial work to the stonework and windows whilst the scaffolding was in place. Cllr. Best added that the overall cost of the remedial work to the exterior walls and windows had been significantly less than estimated by the surveyor in his report.

Cllr. Aslett made the point that, building upon the work undertaken to date, further phases of remedial work needed to be planned, to address the remaining issues identified in the survey report.

- Fitness trail at Bincombe: the Clerk reported that, to date, 29 responses had been received following the issue of the Council newsletter which had invited feedback on the proposal for a fitness/adventure trail at Bincombe. Of these responses, 21 had been against any sort of fitness or play equipment, with 8 respondents in favour.
- Disabled parking at Bincombe: the Operations Manager reported that the fencing repairs and improvements at the Beechwood Drive parking area had been completed and installation of disabled-only signage was imminent.
- CCTV system upgrade: Cllr. Best reported that grant funding opportunities via the Police & Crime Commissioner in support of an upgrade to the CCTV system remained a possibility, albeit not until the new financial year.

Maintenance

- Paths at Happy Valley: the Operations Manager reported that the remaining paths at Happy Valley were in a poor state, with the recent rain having washed away the loose surfaces. He was in the process of obtaining a quotation for tarmacking these pathways.
- War memorial plaque at Falkland Square: it was noted that the plaque was to be removed and cleaned. Councillors discussed the option of repositioning the plaque lower down on the wall. Cllr. Best pointed out that this would run the risk of vandalism. Councillors concurred and it was agreed to proceed with having the plaque cleaned and to be replaced in its current location. The readability of the names on the plaque could then be assessed. Cllr. Aslett kindly volunteered to ensure that the Royal British Legion were kept apprised of this.
- Public toilets at Falkland Square: the Operations Manager reported that further essential repairs were necessary on the door frame of the service door, as the frame wood was rotten and needed to be replaced.

Maintenance “watch list”

- Vandalism at Henhayes playground: the Operations Manager reported that vandals had destroyed the grating of the drain recently installed to avoid flooding of the moat area of the playground.
- Waste bins: the Deputy Clerk reported that she was in the process of organising a litter pick. Cllr. Miss Pritchard added that the Rotary Club had also scheduled a litter pick.

57 **SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS**

18/19 To consider the way forwards for refurbishment of the Severalls tennis courts.

Cllr. Mrs Singleton explained that she had been asked to look into the feasibility of obtaining SSDC grant funding in support of the refurbishment and enhancement of the Severalls tennis courts. She advised that Area West funding was indeed a possibility, although the caveat would be that the enhancement of the facilities would need to be on more of a multi-use basis, rather than simply a refurbishment of the existing tennis courts. On this basis, it had been proposed that the enhancement should consist of refurbishing one of the tennis courts and using the other old court as the basis to create of a multi-use court.

Cllr. Bradly emphasised that it was important to maintain the involvement of the working group. He also suggested that, despite the grant application to the War Memorials trust having been refused, there was sense in resubmitting the application, perhaps for a smaller amount.

Cllr. Aslett made the point that it was important to bring the Severalls courts back into use in some form as soon as possible. He therefore recommended that the Council pursue the potential SSDC funding route. Councillors supported Cllr. Aslett's proposal.

58 **USE OF THE CCTV ROOM BY THE POLICE**

18/19 To consider a request from the Police to use the CCTV room on an occasional basis, as a town centre base

Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that the Council had, some years previously, already given permission for the police to make use of the Town Hall. Given this, Councillors agreed that the recent request was entirely acceptable.

59 **RUGBY CLUB SIGNAGE AND SCOREBOARD**

18/19 To consider a request from Crewkerne Rugby Club to display sponsors signage adjacent to the rugby pitch and to erect a temporary scoreboard on the side of the George Reynolds Centre (GRC)

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from the rugby club to display sponsors signage adjacent to the pitch, subject to visibility of the detail of the signage, including its location and design, and with the caveat that liability for any damage to the signage through, for example, vandalism, would rest with the club.**

Cllr. Miss Pritchard suggested that this agreement should be added into the pitch lease document.

Councillors then discussed the request to erect a temporary scoreboard on the side of the GRC building. It was **AGREED to approve this request, subject to same caveats as above.**

60 **CRICKET CLUB SCOREBOARD**

18/19 To consider a request from the Crewkerne Cricket Club to temporarily hang an electronic scoreboard on the wall of George Reynolds Centre

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the cricket club's request to temporarily hang a scoreboard on the wall of the GRC, subject to visibility of the detail of the design and installation of the scoreboard, and with the caveat that liability for any damage to the scoreboard through, for example, vandalism, would rest with the club.**

61 STREET FOOD BUSINESS

18/19 To consider a request to operate a street food business operating from a vehicle located on the coach parking area of the Henhayes car park

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from O-JAS event catering to operate a street food business from a vehicle located on the coach parking area of the Henhayes car park, on the understanding that the operation was for a 3 month trial period only and that the operator was responsible for ensuring suitable provision of litter bins adjacent to his vehicle and that the area was clear of any litter at the end of each evening.**

62 SKATE JAM EVENT

18/19 To consider a request from Young Somerset to run a skate jam event at Happy Valley on 21 August 2019

It was **AGREED to approve the request from Young Somerset to run a skate jam event at Happy Valley on 21 August 2019.**

63 TREE PLANTING

18/19 To consider a request from Crewkerne District Guides and Brownies to plant tree saplings on community land in Crewkerne

It was **AGREED to approve the request from Crewkerne District Guides and Brownies to plant tree saplings on community land in Crewkerne.** The Chairman noted that the grounds staff would be involved in assisting in the choice of tree varieties and planting locations.

64 USE OF BARN STREET RECREATION GROUND

18/19 To consider a request for use of the Barn Street recreation ground for a fete and dog show proposed to be held on Saturday 20 July 2019

Councillors discussed the request for use of the Barn Street recreation ground for a fete and dog show. Cllr. Best suggested that it would be useful to meet with the resident concerned to better understand the detail of the request, and Councillors supported this view. The Clerk was asked to make arrangements for such a meeting.

65 TO RECEIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES AND WORKING GROUP NOTES

18/19 a) George Reynolds Centre bi-monthly meeting held on 21 February 2019

Noted.

66 TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

18/19 None.

67 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18/19 Monday 20 May 2019 after the Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

am11May2019