

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crewkerne on Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.16 p.m.

PRESENT:

Cllrs. D. Wakeman (Chairman), C. Aslett, M. Best, R. Cottle, B. Hartshorn, K. Head, R. Pailthorpe, J. Roundell Greene and A. Stuart.

In attendance: Town Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers, 1 member of the press and 2 members of the public.

43 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

None received.

44 OPEN FORUM

19/20

No items raised.

45 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19/20

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 9 September 2019 be **APPROVED**.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19/20

None.

47 PROJECT AND WORKS REPORT

19/20 To receive the September 2019 report

Noted.

48 TENNIS COURTS

19/20 To consider the proposal from Cllr. Wakeman for options for refurbishment of the Severalls tennis courts area

Councillors considered the proposal tabled by Cllr. Wakeman for refurbishment of the tennis courts area. A number of points emerged:

- A number of Councillors expressed the view that access to the courts should be unrestricted. Others pointed out that a booking system would be required if there was significant demand for the courts.
- It was noted that the proposal involved applying a paint coating to the existing court surface. The Clerk highlighted that this was probably not a long-term solution but was significantly less expensive than having the courts resurfaced. Some Councillors expressed the view that it might be better to take the longer-term view and have the courts resurfaced.
- Cllr. Hartshorn expressed the view that the area was not the ideal location for an outdoor table tennis table, which he considered would be better located at the Henhayes playground in the centre of the town. Cllr. Pailthorpe pointed out that

outdoor table tennis tables had been introduced at Dorchester and suggested that it would be useful for the Clerk to liaise with Dorchester Town Council, to understand whether these were proving a success.

- A number of Councillors expressed the view that refurbishing the tennis court closest to the road meant that people wishing to access the other court area – which was intended as a general recreation area – would mean potentially disrupting those playing tennis. As a result, a separate entrance would be required to the recreation area.
- A number of Councillors questioned whether grant funding was potentially available. The Deputy Clerk responded by saying that funding opportunities were potentially available, although some carried significant caveats.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Wakeman for the work undertaken to date.

49 REDECORATION OF THE VICTORIA HALL

19/20 To consider the amended quotation received for redecoration of Victoria Hall

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the quotation from Parkland Property Services for redecoration of Victoria Hall in accordance with their quotation and at the quoted cost of £2,804.** It was further **AGREED that the Council would purchase the materials required in support of this work, at an approximate cost of £550.**

50 YOUTH SERVICE

19/20 To receive a progress report from the Clerk and Deputy Clerk on future options for a youth service

The Clerk reported that the current youth service provider had submitted a report outlining their proposal for a future youth service. The Clerk recommended that independent advice be sought on the youth service, to allow the Council to be confident that any future Council-funded youth provision was going to meet the needs of the community. To this end, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had made contact with an independent youth service consultant, with the aim of bringing a costed proposal to the Council for their consideration, for an independent evaluation of the youth service. Councillors fully supported this initiative.

51 TOWN CENTRE RECYCLING FACILITY

19/20 To consider a proposal from Cllr. Hartshorn to establish a town centre recycling facility

Cllr. Hartshorn reported that a key outcome of the recent survey conducted about the environment, was that people were keen to see easier and better recycling facilities in the town. He therefore proposed that the Council consider undertaking a trial, whereby three or four large recycling bins were positioned in key locations in the town centre. Cllr. Best noted that a waste recycling trial was underway at Chard and suggested that Cllr. Hartshorn liaise with Chard Town Council. Cllr. Stuart suggested that, as residents carry out recycling at home, it would be sensible to utilise smaller recycling bins in the town centre. Cllr. Roundell Greene pointed out that a major concern with such recycling was contamination. As such, it would be essential to ensure that the contents of the recycling bins did not end up as landfill because of contamination, as this would defeat the point of the initiative. Cllr. Pailthorpe expressed the view that the Council should be aiming to replace the Town Council's existing waste bins with recycling bins.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Hartshorn for the work he had done to date on this initiative and requested that he continue to develop the proposal, bearing in mind the feedback given.

52 WOODLAND TRUST SAPLINGS

19/20 To note that the Crewkerne District Guides have arranged with the Woodland Trust for the donation of 100 saplings, which the Guides have kindly offered to be planted on Town Council land

Cllr. Wakeman reported that 105 Woodland Trust saplings were being kindly donated by the Guides to the Town Council. It was proposed to plant these in the triangular area of Happy Valley above St. Bartholomew's School, which was currently a little-used grassed area. The Guides wished to be involved in planting the saplings and this was being arranged in conjunction with the Council's grounds staff. Cllr. Head suggested that the Crewkerne in Bloom group should be informed of the planting and the Clerk was asked to liaise accordingly.

53 LUCOMBE OAK

19/20 To consider a proposal from Cllr. Hartshorn to open the area beneath the oak tree to the public

Cllr. Hartshorn advised that, in the arborist's latest report on the health of the Lucombe oak, he had suggested that opening up the area beneath the tree to the public would not be detrimental to its health. In response, Cllr. Best pointed out the tree had originally been fenced off at the insistence of the arborist, in order to protect the root system, which appeared to contradict the latest view. Cllr. Pailthorpe noted that, without fencing in place, there was a risk that vehicles would park on the area. Cllr. Best added to this point by reminding Councillors that one of the wooden posts near the GRC building had been pulled out by the driver of a vehicle who had proceeded to park on the grass.

A number of suggestions were put forward, including reducing the area of the fencing and also introducing a gate.

Cllr. Hartshorn thanked Councillors for their feedback and said that he would undertake some work to consider the options available.

54 TO RECEIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES AND WORKING GROUP NOTES

19/20

a) Henhayes Working Group meeting held on 23 September 2019

Noted.

b) George Reynolds Centre Bi-monthly meeting held on 22 October 2019

Noted.

55 TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

19/20

Cllr. Pailthorpe pointed out the Town Hall front office had now had new lighting installed and a partition wall constructed. However, this work had highlighted the poor state of decoration of the walls and the ceiling. He recognised that there were problems of damp in areas of the base of the wall, but emphasised that resolving the problems of damp in the building was a longer-term project and that it should not therefore obscure the fact that the front office was in urgent need of redecoration.

Councillors concurred with Cllr. Pailthorpe's view and the Clerk was asked to bring the subject of redecoration of the front office back as an agenda item.

Cllr. Best pointed out that some of the benches around the town were getting overgrown. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the grounds maintenance staff addressed these as part of their maintenance schedule.

56 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
19/20

Monday 13 January 2020 after the Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: