

## CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an informal meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held remotely on Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.35 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Cllrs. D. Wakeman (Chairman), T. Bond, R. Cottle, R. Pailthorpe J. Roundell Greene and A. Samuel.

In attendance: Town Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and 3 members of the public.

### 09 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21/22

Apologies were received from Aslett (personal), Best (work commitments), Head (work commitments), Hodgson (unwell), Roberts (personal) and Stuart (personal).

### 10 OPEN FORUM

21/22

- Two members of the ABCD community group spoke regarding the ABCD proposal for a pathway at Henhayes. They declared their support to the Council's proposed routing of the path around the turkey oak, provided that the angular lines shown on the proposal were softened. But they pointed out that the proposal also included a section of pathway which was to run past the Aqua Centre to the GRC and include another turning circle. They asked the Council to obtain costings for both sections of pathway, to allow ABCD to seek grant funding.
- A resident of Pithers Court, who had previously spoken about the overgrown vegetation on the Council land to the rear of Pithers Court, thanked the Council for their action to seek a contractor to cut back the vegetation, and asked what the next step was. In response, the Chairman stated that a quotation was being sought from an arborist, but as this was the busiest time of year for such contractors, the Council was still awaiting the quotation. He advised that the Clerk would provide progress updates.

### 11 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

21/22

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 10 May 2021 be **APPROVED**.

### 12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21/22

None.

### 13 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIRMAN

21/22 To receive an update report from the Amenities Chairman

The Chairman provided an update on the status of the various ongoing Amenities-related activities. Points of discussion were as follows:

- Benches at Henhayes: Cllr. Samuel noted that the bench under the turkey oak had been removed and asked whether it was to be replaced. The Chairman confirmed that it was planned to install a replacement bench under the oak. He added that an additional bench had already been installed near the cricket nets and a picnic bench was planned to be installed near the exit to the industrial estate.

- Nature trail at Bincombe: Cllr. Samuel explained her proposal for a nature trail at Bincombe. She planned to meet with the schools in September to discuss the idea a nature trail. She envisaged having additional wooden sculptures created which related to the town, and adding bat and owl boxes, which could potentially be made by the Shed. She was also investigating the idea of an adventure play trail.
- Severalls allotments wall: the Chairman reported that the allotment wall and pillars were in need of repair and repointing. The Deputy Clerk added that it might well be possible to obtain grant funding support to the repair of the pillars, because of their historic significance.

#### 14 PROPOSED PATHWAY AT HENHAYES

21/22 To receive a report from the Chairman regarding the ABCD proposal for a section of pathway at Henhayes and the recommendation to modify the route of the path to avoid damaging the roots of the nearby turkey oak

The Chairman emphasised that the sketch shown in the agenda pack of the proposed rerouted path was for illustration purposes only. A further site meeting was planned to refine the routing of the path, prior to seeking costings for both the section of pathway running parallel to the playground and for the section running to the GRC.

Cllr. Pailthorpe expressed some concern that the proposed rerouting of the path would mean some loss of the play area. In response, the Chairman explained that the arborist's report on the turkey oak had stressed the need to avoid damaging the tree roots. As a result, it would be necessary to re-route the path to avoid impinging on the tree roots.

#### 15 REFURBISHMENT OF THE SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

21/22 To consider options for the way forwards

The Chairman explained that progress on refurbishing the tennis courts had stalled as a result of covid. However, he was now keen to get the courts back in operation. He proposed that a refurbishment of the court playing surfaces could be carried out at a moderate cost, which would allow the courts to be brought back into service. The Council could then monitor usage and, if the courts were proving to be well used, further investment could be made in the courts.

He advised that quotes had previously been obtained, which showed that a simple refurbishment of the courts would cost approximately £7,000 and that Earmarked Reserves were available to fund this work. After discussion, it was AGREED to support the approach put forward by the Chairman.

The Clerk pointed out that the quotes previously obtained would now need to be refreshed and that he would aim to bring updated quotes to the next Council meeting for approval.

#### 16 ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

21/22 Cllr. Samuel to report on proposed environment initiatives

The Chairman noted that he and Cllr. Samuel had reported on the environment initiatives earlier in the meeting.

#### 17 TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

21/22

No matters raised.

18     **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

21/22

Monday 13 September 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

am10May2021

DRAFT