**CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber,

Town Hall, Crewkerne on Monday 13 November 2017 at 7.12 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs. Mrs R. Jackson (Chairman), M. Best, P. Bradly, Mrs K. Head, B. Hodgson, R. Pailthorpe, Miss K. Pritchard and D. Wakeman.

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.

31 **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

17/18

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs S. Allman (personal), Mrs A. Singleton (personal), Mrs A. Stuart (unwell) and N. Sturtivant (personal).

32 **OPEN FORUM**

17/18

No items raised.

33 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

17/18

It was **AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on**

**Monday 11 September 2017 be APPROVED.**

34 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

17/18

 Cllrs. Best and Mrs Jackson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 14 (CLM celebratory feature).

Cllr. Miss Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda items 6 (Severalls tennis courts) and 9 (Crewkerne in Bloom).

35 **CREWKERNE IN BLOOM**

17/18 To consider the request from Crewkerne Inner Wheel that the Council re-instigate Crewkerne in Bloom

Cllr. Wakeman voiced his approval of the idea of a Crewkerne in Bloom project and this was echoed by Cllr. Best and by the Chairman, who suggested that the Town Council’s newsletter could be used to assist in promoting the project. Cllr. Bradly expressed his support in principle, subject to an understanding of the costs involved.

Cllr. Miss Pritchard pointed out that the Inner Wheel were keen to support and be involved in a Crewkerne in Bloom project.

After further discussion, it was **AGREED to support the proposal from Crewkerne Inner Wheel to initiate a Crewkerne in Bloom project.**

36 **PROJECTS AND WORKS REPORTS**

17/18 To receive the November 2017 report

Councillors considered the latest the Project and Works report and the following points were discussed:

* Grounds staff workshop and welfare facility: the Chairman emphasised that the cemetery chapel, which was being used as a workshop, was far from ideal as a workshop area and did not provide adequate welfare facilities for the grounds staff. She asked Councillors to consider initiating a project to investigate provision of a more suitable and fit-for-purpose facility. Councillors agreed that it was a priority to provide adequate workshop and welfare facilities for the grounds staff. It was therefore agreed that a project should be initiated to explore provision of a fit-for-purpose workshop and welfare facility for the grounds staff.
* CCTV: Regarding the possible upgrade of the current CCTV system, Cllr. Bradly requested that statistics be made available, to allow Councillors to better assess the benefits of the CCTV system when set against the costs involved in upgrading the system. Cllr. Best advised that he was currently attempting to gather appropriate evidence of the utility of the CCTV. The Clerk was asked to add CCTV as a future Amenities Committee agenda item.
* Henhayes playground: Councillors expressed concern at the recent spate of vandalism in the area where the new play equipment was being installed at Henhayes. The Chairman asked that the Council consider again the option of installing security lighting in the playground. Cllr. Bradly expressed the view that lighting could make the problem worse. However, other Councillors considered that lighting would act as a deterrent. After further discussion, it was agreed that the local residents should be canvassed for their view on security lighting.
* Town Hall remedial works: it was noted that two new seats had been ordered for the front of the Town Hall building. These were narrower than the seats usually purchased by the Council, as this maximised the available width of the ramp, to facilitate disabled access. In the context of disabled access, Cllr. Mrs Head referred to a meeting she had held with members of the Crewkerne Action for Disabled community group, where it had been suggested that consideration be given to the installation of railings parallel to the edge of the steps. Councillors noted that any such railings would need the approval of the SSDC Conservation Officer and would need to be removable to accommodate the annual fair. It was agreed that, as a first step, the SSDC Conservation Officer should be approached.

37 **SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS**

17/18 To consider how the Council wishes to proceed regarding the future of the Severalls tennis courts

Cllr. Bradly summarised the key points contained in his paper previously circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. Hodgson expressed the view that, before proceeding much further down the route of seeking grant funding for improvements to the tennis courts, the Council first needed to decide whether it wished the tennis courts to be retained.

Cllr. Pailthorpe pointed out that the feedback received from residents had been overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the courts. In view of this, he believed that the question of the tennis courts being retained at Severalls needed to be addressed by Full Council and, if any change of use was proposed, this would need to be formally endorsed by the War Commemoration Trust. Councillors supported this way forwards. It was therefore **AGREED that the question of the future use of the tennis courts would be added as an agenda item to a forthcoming Full Council meeting.**

38 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE AND PARKING**

17/18 To consider a request from CSYAL for parking on the Henhayes car park

In considering CSYAL’s request for allocated parking on the Henhayes car park, Councillors noted that Aqua Centre employees faced the same issue as staff employed in the GRC, that there was insufficient parking available within the centre of the town.

Regarding CSYAL’s request for a dedicated area to allow contractors to deliver to the GRC, the Chairman suggested that a potential solution could be to widen the paved area adjacent to the GRC and to have a lockable gatepost fitted, controlled by the GRC manager. Councillors expressed support for this proposal in principle, although Cllr. Best advised that widening of the path could be an issue because of the proximity of the holm oak tree. After discussion, it was **AGREED to investigate the option of widening the path adjacent to the GRC to render it suitable for vehicular access, with the first action being to clarify any implications regarding the close proximity of the holm oak.**

39 **ALLOTMENTS POLICY AND TENANCY TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

17/18 To review the current allotments policy and to consider the draft update to the Tenancy Terms and Conditions

It was **AGREED that the current Allotments policy remained entirely valid.**

The draft update to the Tenancy Terms and Conditions was reviewed and, after discussion, it was **AGREED to adopt the revised Tenancy Terms and Conditions subject to the minor amendment discussed by Councillors.**

40 **TO RECEIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES AND WORKING GROUP NOTES**

17/18

a) George Reynolds Centre Bi-monthly meeting held on 6 November 2017

Noted.

41 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

17/18

 Cllr. Bradly reported that the Crewkerne Area Business Chamber had now folded completely.

42 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17/18

Monday 15 January 2018 after the Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

**Signed: …………………..**

**Dated: ……………………**

am13Nov2017

**It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be excluded and were instructed to withdraw.**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

43 **CSYAL REQUEST**

17/18 To consider CSYAL’s request that Crewkerne Town Council make a contribution to the

South Somerset District Council “Playday” cost of hiring the George Reynolds Centre

It was noted that the Playday events were organised between SSDC, CSYAL and ALS, with no involvement by the Town Council. As such, Councillors were in agreement that all costs associated with hosting the Playday events at the GRC were a matter between these parties. The Clerk was asked to respond to CSYAL accordingly.

Cllrs. Best and Mrs Jackson left the room prior to the following agenda item.

It was **AGREED that Cllr. Hodgson would chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee.**

44 **CREWKERNE LEISURE MANAGEMENT CELEBRATORY FEATURE**

17/18 To approve the request from CLM to undertake minor modifications to the Aqua Centre

 foyer to accommodate the planned celebratory feature

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from CLM to undertake minor modifications to the Aqua Centre building to accommodate the planned celebratory feature, on the understanding that such works would be funded entirely by CLM.**

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

**Signed: …………………..**

**Dated: ……………………**

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