

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crewkerne on Monday 20 May 2019 at 7.29 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Town Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers, Amenities Operations Manager M. Jay and 4 members of the public.

01 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R. Pailthorpe (unwell) and A. Smith (unwell).

02 OPEN FORUM

19/20

A member of the public explained that, at the Council meeting held on 13 May 2019, he had incorrectly pointed out to the Council that there was a dog waste bin at the Barn Street recreation ground. The bin at this recreation ground was actually a general waste bin. He apologised for this error.

03 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 11 March 2019 be **APPROVED**.

04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19/20

Cllrs. Head and Stuart declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 (Request from Crewkerne Rugby Club).

Cllr. Best declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Request from CLM).

05 TERMS OF REFERENCE

19/20 To review the Terms of Reference for the Amenities Committee

The Clerk noted that the Terms of Reference required a minor update to reflect the current list of buildings and land owned by the Council.

It was **AGREED** that the Terms of Reference for the Amenities Committee remained **valid, subject to the minor updates noted by the Clerk.**

06 PROJECT AND WORKS REPORT

19/20 To receive the May 2019 report

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

Projects

- Bincombe Beeches parking: the Clerk reported that some able-bodied visitors to Bincombe Beeches who parked at the Beechwood Drive entrance were obstructing both the disabled parking bay and the entrance used by the grounds maintenance staff. Councillors asked the Amenities Operations Manager to arrange for suitable “do not obstruct” notices to be placed on the fencing.
- Sports pitches in Crewkerne: the Chairman noted that the activity to establish wider community use of the sports pitches in Crewkerne had been led by former Cllrs. Singleton and Jackson and that it was necessary not to lose momentum on this work. Cllr. Best advised that he was in communication with the SSDC officer who was involved and he kindly agreed to follow up this matter.
- Relocate town centre bus stops: Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that he had previously reported that the Small Improvement Schemes (SIS’s), of which the safety audit of the South Street/Market Street junction was one, were stalled. However, he was able to advise that Somerset County Council were injecting £2.5m into the scheme, which therefore gave hope that SIS schemes would be progressed, although the fact that there was a considerable backlog meant that timescales for the Crewkerne SIS’s were likely to be prolonged.
- Henhayes perimeter path: Cllrs. Aslett and Wakeman summarised the outcome of the meetings held to discuss the feasibility of establishing a path around the perimeter of Henhayes. They reported that, although the path was technically feasible, the increased risk of a member of the public being struck by a cricket ball during a cricket match meant that a section of the path would need to be closed to the public whilst a cricket match was in progress. As a result, the project appeared not to be practicable.

Maintenance

- George Reynolds Centre: replacement of “bubbling” windows: the Clerk reported that the contractor had visited the GRC with the intention of installing a window to replace the unit that had been cracked during installation. Unfortunately, the replacement unit had proved to be defective and so had not been installed. The Clerk had taken the opportunity to discuss with the engineer the small bubbles which had appeared on two of the newly replaced windows. The engineer took photos of these bubbles and explained that he would need to consult with their glass supplier. However, he did express a view that the bubbles could be as a result of moisture wicking up from the wooden window frames. He pointed out that the environment for these glass units was far from ideal. The windows faced fully into the sun and had blinds drawn directly behind them. As a result, the inner face of the glass was very warm. He strongly recommended that the Council find a way to avoid the need to have blinds drawn, such as using a protective coating on the outside of the glass or installing a protective awning. The GRC Manager was present whilst the contractor and the Clerk were inspecting the windows and asked the Clerk to note that the room was often uncomfortably hot, even with the blinds down and the door open, and this was having a detrimental effect on bookings for use of the hall.

Cllr. Best explained to the new Councillors that, during construction of the building, the windows had been installed incorrectly and using wooden frames rather than the

specification metal frames. As the building contractor had gone into receivership, there had been no opportunity to demand that these problems be rectified.

- Town Hall/Victoria Hall interior: the Chairman proposed that a separate working session be arranged to consider how the remedial work required to the interior of the Town Hall was phased, considering also the potential options for how best to utilise the building.
- Happy Valley paths: the Amenities Operations Manager explained that the driveway from Valley Road and the turning circle had been tarmacked, and the upper level path had been greatly improved. The remaining paths, which ran from the top of Happy Valley and down to the MUGA, were now the next priority. Because of the sloping ground, these gravel paths frequently washed out during heavy rain. The cost to tarmac these remaining paths was in the region of £6,000.

The Clerk was asked to bring this back to the next Amenities Committee as an agenda item.

- Bincombe allotments wall: the Amenities Operations Manager explained that the wall was in the conservation area but was not listed. Costs had been obtained for rebuilding the wall and these costs were, as anticipated, very high. It was agreed that further investigation was required of what options were available to the Council regarding remedial work to the wall.

07 FUTURE USE OF SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

19/20 To receive notes from a meeting held to discuss the future use of Severalls tennis courts and to consider the next steps and which Councillor(s) should lead this project

Councillors noted that the working group which had been charged with examining potential options for the future use of the tennis courts land, had become somewhat focussed on simply upgrading the courts. Councillors also noted that, in the context of such an upgrade, whilst grant funding was likely to be forthcoming, the Council would nevertheless need to commit a considerable amount of funding to such a project. Given this, a number of Councillors remained unconvinced that the demand for playing tennis at Severalls warranted the expenditure.

After further discussion, it was agreed to return to the original brief for this project. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk were therefore asked to explore options for potential recreational uses for the Severalls land. Cllr. Cottle kindly offered to assist with this work.

08 DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE

19/20 To consider a proposal for the disposal of green waste

After discussion, it was **AGREED to accept the proposal for the hire of a green waste skip to allow the disposal of green waste in accordance with the recommendations of the Clerk, with a review of the effectiveness of this after 12 months.**

09 USE OF HENHAYES

19/20 To consider a request from Active Learning & Skills to hold “Play Day” events on behalf of South Somerset District Council (SSDC) using the Henhayes Recreation Ground

It was **AGREED to approve the request from Active Learning & Skills to hold “Play Day” events on behalf of SSDC in the school summer holidays using the Henhayes**

Recreation Ground, with the usual conditions attached. Cllr. Hartshorn suggested that the Council expand the conditions of use to encourage an environmental awareness at such events, such as avoiding the use of single use plastics. Councillors supported this recommendation.

10 REQUEST FROM CREWKERNE RUGBY CLUB

19/20 To further consider a request from Crewkerne Rugby Club to mount an electronic scoreboard on the side of the George Reynolds Centre (GRC) building

Cllr. Best advised that he had lodged the question with the Planning Authority, whether planning permission was required for the erection of the scoreboard on the side of the GRC building.

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from Crewkerne Rugby Club to mount an electronic scoreboard on the side of the George Reynolds Centre building, subject to confirmation that the Rugby Club accept liability for any damage or loss relating to the scoreboard.** Cllr. Best suggested that it would be useful to enshrine the agreement and associated caveats within the Rugby Club's pitch lease document.

11 REQUEST FROM CREWKERNE LEISURE MANAGEMENT (CLM)

19/20 To consider a request from CLM, who are seeking permission to install an additional ventilation grille above the plant room of the Crewkerne Aqua Centre

Cllr. Best explained that a new, more powerful, air handling system had now been installed at the Aqua Centre. One consequence of the increased power of the system was that the current air inlet and outlet grilles on the side of the building were spaced too close together, which was reducing the efficiency of the system. CLM therefore proposed to have an additional grille installed, which would provide greater separation between inlet and outlet. This work would be carried out entirely at CLM's expense. Cllr. Best also reported that clarification was being sought from the Planning Authority on whether planning permission was required.

It was **AGREED to approve the request from CLM to install an additional grille in the side of the Aqua Centre building, to provide greater separation between the air inlet and outlet for the air handling system.**

12 CORRESPONDENCE

19/20 To receive the following correspondence

a) From ABCD regarding the Henhayes Playground Working Group

Councillors noted the request from ABCD for a meeting of the Henhayes Playground Working Group and agreed that, now that Cllrs. Aslett, Best and Wakeman had been appointed to manage this working group, it was appropriate for the Clerk to arrange a working group meeting in the near future.

b) From two members of the public regarding suggesting that Barn Street recreation ground is planted with trees

The correspondence was noted.

Cllr. Hodgson suggested that alternative uses for the Barn Street recreation ground would be best considered in the Council's forthcoming workshop to consider and agree

future Council priorities. Councillors supported this approach and asked the Clerk to respond to the correspondent accordingly.

13 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

19/20

None.

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

19/20

Monday 8 July 2019 after the Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: