

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, following a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. M. Best (Chair), N. Draycott, D. Livesley, J. Nathan, A. Samuel, C. Rawe, S. Woodland.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk G. Hughes.

**001 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Ashton, K. Head, J. Morris (all personal) and A. Stuart (work commitments).

**002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

25/25

None.

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

24/25

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 13 May 2024 be APPROVED.

**004 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

24/25

No members of the public were present.

**005 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIR**

24/25 To receive an update report from the Amenities Chairman

The Chair noted that the updated Amenities progress matrix had been circulated and published. Cllr. Nathan noted that a quote for a reduction to the magnolia tree in St. Bart's Churchyard had been agreed, stating that the works would need to be carried out in the early part of the autumn for best results.

**006 BARN STREET BEECH**

24/25 To note the updated reports on the Barn Street Beech and planned works for new management approach

A report from the Town Clerk was noted. Councillors agreed that a change in management was necessary, following test results which revealed a 65% decrease in strength. Approximately 100 letters had been delivered to nearby residents to advise them of the plans. Planning permission for an initial reduction had been granted, and the works would be carried out in the autumn, with new beech trees being planted. The tree would continue to be monitored.

**007 SONIC TOMOGRAPHY**

24/25 To consider quotations for sonic tomographic testing on the Lucombe Oak and Turkey Oak

A quote from Devon Tree Services Ltd for £930 +VAT was AGREED.

**008**    **KEY SITE LAND TRANSFER**

24/25    To note planned transfer of land off Easthams Lane and form a working group to assess options for future use/agree public consultation

Councillors noted that the legal documents which would effect the transfer of three fields located off Easthams Lane to Crewkerne Town Council were in preparation and would come to a future council meeting for approval. In the meantime, the proposed use of the land would need to be considered, with Councillors noting that a sum of money ringfenced for maintaining the land would also be transferred to the Town Council. Taylor Wimpey had offered to carry out clearance works on the land to the Town Council's specification. It was AGREED to form a small working group to look at the possibilities, and in the first instance undertake a further site visit to review the land as the greenery dies back for winter.

**009**    **FALKLAND SQUARE BENCH**

24/25    To receive a progress update from the Town Clerk and select a bench

The Town Clerk reported that the Falkland Square Management Company had approved the request for an additional bench, to be funded and installed at the Town Council's cost. After consideration a bench was selected at a cost of £631.77 + VAT.

**010**    **BINCOMBE BEECHES NATURE TRAIL**

24/25    To sign off final artwork for the nature trail leaflet and interpretation boards for printing and production

The final artwork for the boards and leaflets was AGREED without change.

**011**    **HENHAYES CAR PARK**

24/25    To consider a request to close the car park for flu vaccinations on 5 & 6 October

A request from Crewkerne Health Centre to close Henhayes car park for two days to support the flu vaccination clinic was AGREED.

**012**    **HAPPY VALLEY PLAY DAY 2025**

24/25    To consider a recommendation from the Happy Valley Working Group regarding a 2025 play day at Happy Valley

A recommendation from the Happy Valley Working Group that one of the two ALS summer play days be held at Happy Valley was AGREED.

**013**    **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

24/25    To receive a progress update from the Town Clerk and select a bench

Cllr. Best reported that a meeting had been held with a solicitor regarding the articles of association required for setting up a new management company, and that he was now writing a business plan which he hoped to present to the working group and Full Council for approval in the near future. He noted that this would be a time-consuming piece of work which needed to be done correctly.

**014**    **WEEKLY MARKET**

24/25    To review the six months trial of the weekly Wednesday market and consider a way forward

A report regarding the current status of the weekly market was considered, following the six months trial. Councillors felt that the return of the market had been positively received and were supportive of it continuing, to assess levels of trader attendance and public support through winter. It was hoped that confirming the continuation of the market would give the traders confidence. The continuation of the weekly market was therefore AGREED.

015    **MATTERS OF REPORT**

24/25

Councillors reported that:

- The replacement cash point at Nationwide was on order and would hopefully be installed soon.
- Complaints about dog fouling in the sandpit at Happy Valley had been received. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Happy Valley Working Group had reviewed the sandpit and would be recommending that it was fenced off to protect it, with quotes being sought as a budget consideration for 2025/26. It was also noted that the bins for Happy Valley had arrived, but were awaiting installation.

Some discussion took place around the possibility of a banking hub for the town. Cllr. Best reported that he had started to make informal enquiries about this, and would chase this up again and report back.

016    **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24/25

Monday 11 November 2024 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 19.43.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

Am16September2024