

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 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. M. Best (Chair), D. Livesley, K. Head, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Samuel, C. Rawe.

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

Members of the Public: None.

**017 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Ashton, N. Draycott, S. Woodland (all personal) and A. Stuart (unwell).

**018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

25/25

None.

**019 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 16 September 2024 be APPROVED.

**020 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

24/25

No members of the public were present.

**021 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 published. Cllr. Nathan highlighted that some of the ties used at Bincombe for staking trees had come undone. Councillors agreed that further trees must be staked on the same day they are planted. The planning application for a reduction to the Churchyard magnolia had been submitted and works planned towards the end of December. It was noted that enquiries were being made about potentially obtaining the grassed area at the bottom of Furland Road from Somerset Council.

**022 TOWN BINS**

24/25 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on Somerset Council's approach to town bins, distribution and collection and consider the purchase of a co-mingle bin

A report from the Town Clerk was considered. It was AGREED to purchase and trial a 240l co-mingle bin as per the suggestion from Somerset Council. The preferred location was to replace the bin outside the George Hotel, as this was believed to be the most used in the Market Square area, but if this was not possible due to space, to locate it in front of Fox and Sons.

023     **SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS**

24/25   To receive a usage update following the first year of operation

A report from the Town Clerk was noted. Councillors commented that it had been good to see the courts in use for the past year, and that funds accrued would help fund future maintenance costs. Councillors felt the current arrangements were working well, noting that 'free to use' courts elsewhere had experienced issues with people booking the courts and not attending, which had acted as a barrier to participation.

024     **KEY SITE LAND TRANSFER**

24/25   To receive an update

Councillors heard that a site visit with Taylor Wimpey had taken place to begin to assess clearance works on the land. This had been productive, and a drone survey of the land had been booked to help with preliminary usage assessments. Once the survey had been completed, the working group would meet to draw up an outline plan to bring to Councillors. As the land was approximately 8.5 acres, it was hoped that multiple uses could be accommodated in such an extensive area.

025     **SONIC TOMOGRAPHY**

24/25   To note results of recent tomographic testing on the Lucombe and Turkey Oaks

The Town Clerk reported that the full reports from these tests had not yet been received, but would be circulated as soon as possible. She had attended site on the day of the test and the consultants had advised that both trees were in excellent health.

026     **MATTERS OF REPORT**

24/25

Councillors reported that:

- Additional signatories were required for online banking authorisation.
- Heras fencing at the end of Church Path continued to obstruct the A30 on highways land, the Town Clerk was asked to send a letter requesting it to be removed.
- The trolley store opposite Savers had been removed, no response from Falkland Square Management company had been received following objections about proposals to locate further parcel lockers in the area.
- Waitrose had kindly agreed to move the planter in Falkland Square for the Christmas tree.
- Ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour in the public toilets, and around Henhayes, had been noted, the Town Clerk had spoken with the Police and Cllr. Best planned to raise concerns with the local secondary school.

027     **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24/25

Monday 13 January 2025 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

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

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Legal matters.**

028    **LAND TO THE REAR OF RICHMOND HOUSE**  
24/25   To consider an request to sell the land (in principle)

It was AGREED that this land was not for sale.

(Cllr. Head requested that her vote against this decision be recorded).

The meeting closed at 19.58.

DRAFT

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

Am11November2024