

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, following a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on Monday 13th January 2025.

PRESENT:

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

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

Members of the Public: None.

029 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Ashton and K. Head (both unwell).

030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25/25

None.

031 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 11 November 2024 be APPROVED.

032 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

24/25

No members of the public were present.

033 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIR

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

The updated Amenities progress matrix had been published. The Town Clerk confirmed she had recently reported the empty grit bin at Brickyard Lane to Somerset Council Highways and it had been added to the refill list. She was asked to chase Highways for an indication of dates for this to be done, and Cllr. Best agreed to also follow this up. In response to a query from Cllr. Draycott, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that she was making enquiries about grit bins in Thomson Drive and Beechwood Drive.

034 LAND AT EASTHAMS LANE

24/25 To consider an outline clearance plan and delegate to the Town Clerk to liaise with Taylor Wimpey to make arrangements to effect clearance

Councillors noted that draft transfer documents were being drawn up to effect the transfer of the land at Easthams Lane from Taylor Wimpey to Crewkerne Town Council. Section 2.3 of the relevant S106 agreement states that the following must take place prior to the transfer of the land:

- Cut and clear the grassland
- Create an access point wide enough for maintenance vehicles to drive through

- Treat the land so that the ragwort is effectively removed and the treatment is long lasting
- Erect suitable fencing on boundaries
- Carry out dormouse investigation/assessment and provide results to the District Council (sic) and the Town Council
- Clear access points made through each existing hedge line (one access per boundary)
- Mow the pathways to link to the accesses
- Install 6 litter and dog bins (3 of each, 1 per field)
- Install 3 benches (1 per field)

A small working group conducted a site visit in the late autumn of 2024 with a representative of Taylor Wimpey to assess the scope of the clearance works and to understand the potential future uses of the site. Following the site visit, a drone survey of the site was commissioned to get an aerial perspective of the site, particularly the wooded area and surrounding fields, which had been reviewed by Councillors. It was noted that the wooded area immediately to the Easthams Lane side of the site presented challenges as it is difficult to see what trees are within it, and there are also small streams/water courses draining through it towards the lowest part of the site. Councillors considered an outline clearance plan, noting that any necessary permissions, consents or ecological work would be discussed with Taylor Wimpey prior to any work taking place.

Councillors noted that the draft plan represented a staged approach to clearance whereby the wooded area is left at present, bar an entrance and perimeter maintenance path. The larger portion of the site is bramble and lower lying scrub which is easier to clear and maintain. Possible future uses of the site were delineated in the plan (which was not to scale). Councillors noted that the plan might need to be flexible depending on what is found during clearance works and would hope to obtain professional input from consultants to inform this.

The draft clearance plan was AGREED with the proposed works to be prioritised as follows: reinstatement of boundary fence, creation of access point and maintenance path, removal of structures, undertake clearance works. Bins and bench locations would be identified at a later point. Arrangements for the works were formally delegated to the Town Clerk to liaise with Taylor Wimpey.

035 SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

24/25 To receive an update on the access project and earmarked funds

The Town Clerk reported that an application for funding to install a wheelchair friendly path and access gate at the courts had been unsuccessful. Councillors AGREED that the £9,356.43 currently held in an earmarked reserve for the tennis courts should continue to be ringfenced for this purpose in case future external funding opportunities arose.

036 MATTERS OF REPORT

24/25

Councillors noted the following:

- The Deputy Clerk was making enquiries with Somerset Council Highways about potential sites for additional roadside grit bins.
- The Somerset Council litter bin in West Street was not planned to be reinstated.

Cllr. Best requested that the Town Clerk contact the Street Scene Manager and request to revisit the plans for town centre bins.

037 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24/25

Monday 10 March 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.

038 OPEN SPACES WASTE COLLECTION 2025/26

24/25

To consider options relating to the paid removal of waste collected from Town Council open spaces

It was AGREED to accept the quotation from Somerset Council for the removal of dog waste and litter collected from Town Council land twice weekly with effect from 1st April 2025. Arrangements to effect this were delegated to the Town Clerk.

(Cllr. Draycott requested that his abstention from this decision be recorded).

The meeting closed at 20.01.

Signed:

Dated:

Am13January2025