



WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:00PM ON MONDAY 10th OCTOBER 2022 AT THE TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs R Tudgay (Chair), T Child, E Hix, A Lumley, C Rodgers and L Walters

ALSO PRESENT: Emma Curtis – Town Clerk
Steve Lee – Works and Maintenance Supervisor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr H Ellard

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the reason for absence as presented.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. WORKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS REPORT

Cllr Tudgay referred members to the report prepared by the Works Maintenance Supervisor prior to the meeting. Queries were raised regarding the cemetery extension and drainage issues. Cllr Hix queried the water costs at the allotment due to a large overspend and it was confirmed that this was due to a leak which was difficult to locate but the issue had now been resolved. Quotes for the fixture and fittings of a replacement play frame part at Cale Park play area were considered and it was agreed to proceed as a matter of urgency due to Health and Safety.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to proceed with the purchase and fitting of the play frame part at a total cost of £887 + VAT.

Action: 101022/1 Works and Maintenance Supervisor

5. SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

To consider entry into the 2023 South West in Bloom Competition

The Town Clerk provided the committee with information on the competition and members discussed the scheme. It was agreed that the Open Spaces Committee is supportive of entry into the competition, but that support should be garnered from relevant groups within the town prior to entry. The Clerk stated she would send the website link around to members of the Open Spaces Committee to view and contact local groups.

Action: 101022/2 Town Clerk

6. NOTICEBOARDS

To consider new noticeboards for outside of the town centre in residential areas

The Town Clerk suggested that it may be beneficial to have some new Town Council noticeboards away from the Town Hall to provide residents with Town Council information. Cllrs considered areas such as Carrington Way, Bayford Park and the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that the Town Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor would research appropriate locations and costings of noticeboards. Cllrs queried what would happen to the Somerset County Council noticeboards in the town once the unitary authority was formed. The Town Clerk stated she would investigate.

Action: 101022/3 Town Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor

7. WINCANTON MAP

To receive any update on the Wincanton Map

This item was deferred.

8. CHARITY COMMUNITY MARKET

To consider organising a Charity Community Market

Cllrs considered this suggestion and agreed to put the item in abeyance for the time being. Cllrs expressed their interest in trying to reinvigorate a community market within the town.

9. MEMORIAL HALL BENCHES

To note damaged benches outside the Memorial Hall

Cllrs noted the benches outside the Memorial Hall are damaged and the Town Clerk suggested that they be replaced with benches being funded via MTIG. It was agreed to check ownership of the benches and ensure that the families of those the benches are dedicated to are involved. It was reported that the benches at Bayford Hill dedicated to Queen Victoria had lost their plaques and required replacing.

10. ALLOTMENTS

To receive any updates on the allotments

The Town Clerk reported that the tenancy agreements and renewals had been sent out. The Works and Maintenance Supervisor reports that routine inspections continue and that overall, the allotments are in a good condition. The Town Clerk stated she wished to review the tenancy agreement, costings and rental fees and would conduct this as soon as possible. Cllr Tudgay queried where that Council had reached in negotiations for an allotment extension and the Clerk stated she would follow this up.

Action: 101022/4 Town Clerk

11. PLAY AREAS

To receive any updates on the play areas including

- **Cale Park Play Frame – Consider quote for replacement and fitting:** Considered earlier in the meeting under agenda item 4.
- **Cale Park Gate – Consider request for the gating of the play area:** Cllr Tudgay reported that a request had been received by a by member of the public requesting that the play area be gated off. Cllrs considered this request and felt that this would not serve a purpose and would be an unnecessary expense as the river serves as a natural boundary with no roads close by. Gating off the play area may also encourage children to be left unattended which the Town Council would not support.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed not to move forward with this request.

- **Penn View Slide Mound – Consider quotes:**

No quotes yet received. It was agreed by Cllrs to look at the refurbishment of the whole park and a longer-term plan. In the meantime, it was agreed to monitor the mound in case it becomes a hazard.

Action: 101022/5 Town Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor

12. CEMETERY PATH

To consider revised quote for cemetery path repairs

Cllrs considered a revised quote received for remedial works along the pathway. Due to health and safety aspects some of the pathway needs repair and patchwork as soon as possible. It was noted that there was £10,000 within the budget for some works to be completed within the current financial year. The Town Clerk was requested to find the full s106 information relating to the cemetery extension and add the expenditure for the pathway for approval at the next Full Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that it be recommended to Full Council that the £10,000 budgeted for cemetery repair works be used for remedial works on the pathway as soon as possible.

Action: 101022/6 Town Clerk

13. TREES

To discuss trees at Bayford Hill

Cllr Tudgay reported that some trees at Bayford Hill had historically been maintained by the Town Council, but it had been decided several years ago that the Council would no longer maintain them. Cllr Tudgay stated that there was concern that if the trees were not maintained they would be removed which may cause controversy. The issue had been considered at a recent Wincanton United Charities meeting and it was felt that the trees were Somerset Highways responsibility. The Town Clerk was requested to contact the Somerset County Cllrs and Somerset Highways to seek assistance.

Action: 101022/7 Town Clerk

14. TALKING BENCH

To consider location for a Talking Bench

Cllrs considered various areas as the best location for a Talking Bench. It was agreed that it needed to be accessible to everyone and be clearly marketed as a Talking Bench. It was agreed that the Town Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor would consider location options

Action: 101022/8 Town Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 18th January 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8:27pm