

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **GROUNDS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 13 July 2009.**

(7:00pm – 7.55pm)

### **Present:**

Alan Smith - Chairman  
J Vincent Chainey  
Phil Chandler  
Pete Goodman  
John Grana  
Dave Greene  
Steve Hawker  
Simon Hester  
Wes Read (Ex-officio)  
Jon Trevett (co-opted non-voting)

### **Also Present:**

Steven Barnes – Play and Youth Facilities Officer - SSSC  
Tom Parsley – South Ward Member  
Clive Davis – Central Ward Member  
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk  
Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk

### **Public Comment**

Jacqui Cousins, Chair of Lark Community Association thanked the Committee for their previous support of the Association's request for the change of use of a disused recycling bay at Monks Dale Recreation Ground.

Although the Association had raised £800 towards the costs of meeting their request, another commitment had arisen which meant that the funds available were now £500. The Town Clerk indicated that the work involved, which comprised the provision of seating, the repositioning of fencing and the erection of a noticeboard, had yet to be costed by the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer. However the Committee had agreed that should the cost involved exceed the funds available from the Association, then the Town Clerk and the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer would be authorised to investigate ways by which the shortfall could be met from existing budgets.

### 7/166 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/167 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Gooding.

7/168 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

J Vincent Chainey declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 (Allotment Rent Review 2009) by virtue of his allotment tenancy with the Town Council.

Clive Davis declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 (Request for two dog bins in Abbey Road) due to his friendship with the Chair of the Lark Community Association.

7/169 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/170 **PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Play and Youth Facilities Officer regarding recently undertaken and planned repair/improvement works at Preston and Milford parks.

Steve advised that he would check and secure the Kingston View Play area as there was a suggestion that the padlock was missing from the double gates.

**RESOLVED**

that the matters be noted.

7/171 **YEW TREE PARK REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

The Play and Youth Facilities Officer gave a verbal update on recent developments regarding the refurbishment of the play area at Yew Tree Recreation Ground (Agenda item 6 refers).

Members mentioned the planned ground levelling works. It was agreed that relevant ward members should be contacted to advise them when it was happening and that it was appropriate to wait until September to proceed, so as not to disrupt the use of the play area over the summer period.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that ward members be contacted prior to any ground levelling works taking place and that every effort be made to ensure that such works are carried out after the school summer holidays;

#### 7/172 **ALLOTMENT RENT REVIEW 2009**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 7 refers). The members did not feel an increase was necessary this year.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) that the matter be noted; and
- 2) that no action be taken regarding an increase in allotment rents in respect of the year commencing 1 October 2010.

#### 7/173 **DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO MONKSDALE ALLOTMENT SITE**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers)

The Committee were grateful for the internal resurfacing works that Yarlinton Housing Group had kindly agreed to undertake on an ex-gratia basis, and for the additional overnight security arrangements that will be put in place whilst the roadway is constructed.

The Town Clerk was asked to seek assurance that the temporary pedestrian access from Abbey Road would be wide enough to accommodate mobility vehicles.

The Committee was also keen to retain a hedge that borders the allotment; the Town Clerk was asked to establish ownership of the hedge and to report back his findings to the Committee if necessary.

#### **RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted;

#### 7/174 **REQUEST FOR DOG BINS**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

The Committee felt strongly, for environmental reasons, that it was important that a bin be sited at each end of Abbey Road. However, the Committee was disappointed at the current charge by South Somerset District Council of £6.12 per week to empty each new bin provided by the Town Council, because the District Council had a statutory responsibility for environmental health matters.

Given the fact that the District Council already employed staff to empty such bins, it was strongly felt that this cost should continue to be met by the District Council, with the Town Council meeting the cost of providing and installing such bins within the allocated budget.

The Town Clerk then referred to the present annual budget of £500 allocated for dog bins and indicated that there were insufficient funds to purchase the bins requested and to meet the new emptying costs that would be incurred in respect of each new bin.

Members strongly supported the need for a new bin in the Abbey Road area and agreed that a 'chute' style bin be purchased and located at an appropriate location in the road and that discussions take place with the District Council requesting the adoption of a sustainable and equitable arrangement for dog bin procurement and emptying.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that a single 'chute' waste bin be purchased and installed at an appropriate location at the bottom of Abbey Road; and
- (2) that the Town Clerk discuss the future provision and emptying of dog waste bins given that the statutory responsibility lies with the District Council's Environmental Health team along the lines outlined at the meeting. The outcome would be reported back to the Committee.

**7/175 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 2009**

The Committee considered the report of the Financial Administrator (Agenda item 10 refers)

**RESOLVED**

that the Financial statement for the above months be noted.

**Public Comment**

There were no further comments from members of the public.

Chairman

AT/SH  
20/07/09