

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **GROUND AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 3 March 2008**

(7.00pm – 8.15pm)

Present:

Philip Chandler – Chairman
Pete Goodman
Dave Greene
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Steve Barnes – Play and Youth Facilities Officer, SSDC
Sally Bing – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Dollard, Councillor for South Ward, addressed the Committee regarding Agenda item 6 for which she declared a personal and prejudicial interest due to her membership of the Scout Group which owns and uses the hall which is experiencing problems with footballers kicking a ball continually against the wall and has resulted in the estimates for the installation of a kick-about wall.

Bridget explained to the Committee that she was seeking support for the kick-about wall for Yew Tree Park as many organisations used the hall, including majorettes, cubs, scouts, beavers, explorer unit scouts, Yeovil Judo Club, Yeovil Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Society, along with other commercial and community organisations.

She stated that the constant kicking of very hard footballs against the scout hut by some users of the park disturbed the meetings being held within the facility. She explained that the scout group was a registered charity and would find it hard to raise sufficient funds to pay for the kick-about wall themselves, adding that their largest expense was £1,500 per year ground rent to South Somerset District Council.

She explained that the District Council had the use of a room within the scout hall for showers for football players and storage of football equipment.

Bridget appealed to the Committee to support the installation of the kick-about wall to solve the problem of balls being kicked against the scout hall wall.

The Chairman asked Bridget Dollard whether the game the football players were playing was similar to a form of football squash where the ball would rebound off the wall for the next player to kick. Bridget confirmed that this was the kind of activity taking place and causing so much disturbance.

Bridget Dollard then left the meeting.

7/70 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting previous held on 7th January 2008, copies of which had already been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/71 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Ruth Kendall, Wes Read and David Recardo.

7/72 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest, other than that declared earlier by Bridget Dollard.

7/73 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence

7/74 **PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report by the Play Areas and Youth Facilities Officer (Agenda item 5 refers).

Steve Barnes also informed the Committee that South Somerset District Council had approved the funding arrangements for the upgrading of the Yew Tree Park play area in 2008/2009. He added that the £80,000 contribution was dependent on a number of conditions including equal match funding by the Town Council.

The Assistant Town Clerk informed the Committee of the funding situation for the match funding contribution from the Town Council explaining that it had been proposed to fund the capital project from the sale of land at Goldcroft. She further added that it had been agreed that South Somerset District Council would be given three months from the revaluation of the land to purchase the land from the Town Council; following the three month deadline the land would be sold on the open market. She stated that the revaluation had recently taken place.

It was noted that the funding arrangements were due to be considered at the next meeting of the Policy Resources and Finance Committee at which further consideration would be given to ways of funding the Town Council's pledged contribution.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the £80,000 contribution to the Capital Fund for refurbishment of Yew Tree Park play area was dependent on match funding from Yeovil Town Council; and

7/75 **YEW TREE PARK KICK-ABOUT WALL/SPORTS WALL**

The Committee considered the report of the Play and Youth Facilities Officer (Agenda item 6 refers) detailing costs for the provision of a kick-about wall/sports hall for Yew Tree Park.

The costings had been requested following concerns raised at the last meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee by Bridget Dollard as some users of the park were constantly kicking a football against the side and end wall of the scout hut.

Steve Barnes showed the Committee pictures of the kind of apparatus which could be installed and which were referred to in the costings in the report. However, it was considered that this type of kick-about wall would not prevent footballers kicking the ball against the scout hut as they were playing a form of football squash which required the ball to rebound off the wall. The costings included in the report were for structures similar to the end of a multi-use games area which would be less suitable for this kind of activity.

The Committee considered other solutions to resolving the problem and requested further investigation and referral back to the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee at a future date.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters and the costings for the kick-about wall/sports wall be noted; and
- (2) that further investigations into the solution of the problem of footballers kicking a ball up against the scout hut walls take place and be referred back to the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee at a future date.

7/76 **ALLOTMENT EQUIPMENT**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers).

The Committee was supportive of giving allotment tenants the option to hire equipment from local hire companies to ensure fair distribution of resources and ease problems in transporting the relevant equipment to the allotment sites. It was felt however that the existing equipment could be kept in storage and the hiring initiative be trialled for one season. It was also noted that the comments of the Allotment Tenants Working Group were awaited and the Committee felt that these would be instrumental in making the correct decision with regard to allotment equipment.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;

- (2) that the initiative to allow allotment tenants to hire equipment directly from reputable tool and equipment hire suppliers in the Yeovil area be supported; and
- (3) that a final decision regarding the hiring initiative be made at the May meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – anticipating that the comments of the Allotment Tenants Working Group would be received by that time.

7/77 **WATER REFURBISHMENT AT ST GEORGE'S ALLOTMENT SITE**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the additional sum of £265 required be met from the anticipated underspend in the Fence Repairs Budget.

7/78 **MEMBERS' TOUR OF ALLOTMENT SITES AND OPEN SPACES**

The Committee considered the brief report (Agenda item 9 refers) and agreed that the commencement of tours at 5pm on 12 May and 5pm on 7 July, immediately prior to the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee meetings for those months would be appropriate. At the open spaces tour it was requested that Yew Tree Park, Westfield, Sunningdale Doorstep Green and, time permitting, Sidney Gardens, be visited in May and on the allotment tour in July, Milford Dip, Sunningdale, Newton, Goar Knapp and Hillcrest allotment sites be visited.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the above tours be agreed.

7/79 **ALLOTMENT TENANTS WORKING GROUP**

The Committee considered the outcome of the Allotment Tenants Working Group held on 11 February 2008 (Agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/80 **BEST VALUE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the this year's achievement in relation to the letting of allotments be noted, and a target of maintaining next year's lettings at 80% occupancy rate be set; and
- (2) that the outcome of the planned customer satisfaction survey of play areas be awaited.

7/81 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER 2007 AND JANUARY 2008**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 12 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for December 2007 and January 2008 be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman

SB/JW
10/03/08