



Yeovil Town Council

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The Meeting... **Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Monday 8 March 2010**

The Place... **Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil**

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please ring 01935 382424



Alan Tawse

Alan Tawse
Town Clerk

02 March 2010

Please contact Sarah Hunt at the Town House for more information about this meeting

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

To: All Members of the Grounds and General
Maintenance Committee

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

John Grana

Dave Greene (Vice Chairman)

Steve Hawker

Simon Hester

Wes Read (Ex-officio)

Alan Smith (Chairman)

Jon Trevett (co-opted non-voting)

A G E N D A

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 Minutes)

1. **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 January 2010.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5. **PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

To consider a report from the Play and Youth Facilities Officer on Yeovil's play areas at page 3.

6. **ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE WORK**

To consider a verbal report by the Streetscene Co-ordinator on allotment maintenance works carried out at the Town Council's allotments.

7. **HEDGING WORK AT SUNNINGDALE ALLOTMENTS**

To consider a report from the Assistant Town Clerk at page 4.

8. **HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS WATER REFURBISHMENT**

To consider an update from the Assistant Town Clerk at page 4.

9. **ALLOTMENT LETTINGS**

To consider a report from the Town Clerk attached at page 5.

10. **ALLOTMENT TENANTS WORKING GROUP**

To consider the outcomes of the meetings of the Allotment Tenants Working Group held on 1 March and 1 February 2010. Copies of the minutes have been separately circulated.

11. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

To receive the Financial Statement for the period 1 December 2009 to 31 January 2010. See attached Financial Statement at pages 6 to 13.

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 Minutes)

5. PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Yew Tree Park Play Area

The construction of the play area is well underway. Good progress is being made with the installation of the buddy swing, cone climber, wigwams, the two large play towers, cradle swings, zip line and the extra high swing as well as fencing, dog grids and three pedestrian gates. A start is also being made with planting in various areas. Work has stopped on the mound slide due to the very wet weather. Work will commence again in early March when hopefully the weather will be drier. Various other pieces of equipment also need dry weather before they can be installed. It is hoped that the work will have concluded by the end of March.

The play area opening date will be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting on Friday 5th March and the outcome will be reported to the meeting.

Monks Dale Play Area

The design company has now been selected. The successful contractor is Swan Paul Partnership, who have already designed several play areas in South Somerset and have impressed with their good quality design and effective consultation process. They also put forward a very competitive bid.

A drop-in session, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., involving local residents, the local school and ward councillors, is being organised for a suitable date in late March.

Maintenance of Yeovil Town Council Play Areas

Regular weekly inspections of play areas are continuing. The painting, safety surfacing and repair programme for play areas is currently being worked on for 2010/11.

At the Kingston View play area, a number of repairs and enhancements have been made, including a new spring rider, panels in the multi-unit and a new sign. At Monksdale, the broken fencing has been repaired.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matters.

(Stephen Barnes, Play and Youth Facilities Officer (01935 462408))

7. HEDGING WORK AT SUNNINGDALE ALLOTMENTS

The tender for the work to cut back the hedging on the western boundary at Sunningdale was won by the District Council's horticultural maintenance team, following a tendering process concluded in early February 2010.

Work began on site on 1st March. As the hedging was cut back, it was discovered that a retaining brick wall, belonging to the adjoining Hathermead Gardens development, had fallen into serious disrepair and the gap created was providing a handy dumping ground for fly-tippers and access for trespassers.

We have been liaising with Raglan Housing Association, who are the Registered Landlord of Hathermead Gardens, to encourage them to effect repairs as soon as possible.

On the second day of the hedge maintenance project, three freshly dug badger setts were discovered. We immediately contacted Julian Brown, a local badger consultant. He was able to advise us that as long as noise and activity around the setts were kept to moderate levels, there was no requirement to apply for a disturbance licence and we were therefore permitted to finish the project.

We are hopeful that this work will be concluded in the next fortnight, so that there is minimal disruption to nesting birds.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter.

Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk (01935 382424)

8. HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS WATER REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Following a tendering process that concluded in early February 2010, the contract to replace the pipework at Hillcrest Allotments was awarded to Green and Carter, a firm based at Wellington, Somerset. They are due on site on Wednesday 3 March 2010.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter.

Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk (01935 382424)

9. **ALLOTMENT LETTINGS**

There are currently 70 persons on the waiting list for an allotment plot, 97% of whom have expressed a preference for a particular site(s).

The Council has 325 allotment plots on 11 sites - all of which are currently let. The total number of plots is in excess of the minimum provision advocated by the Thorpe Report of 1969, which suggested that the “irreducible minimum provision” should be 15 plots to 1,000 households. In the case of Yeovil Town, this would equate to 204 plots.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) currently considers the irreducible minimum to be 20 plots to 1,000 households, which in the case of Yeovil Town, would equate to 272 plots. Again, the number of plots provided by the Town Council exceeds this figure.

A national survey carried out last year in conjunction with the NSALG found that the average number of people waiting for an allotment plot was 49 per 100 plots. In Yeovil Town, the current figure is 22 per 100 plots.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)