

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **GROUPS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 6 September 2010**

(7:00pm – 8.00pm)

Present:

Steve Hawker – Chairman
J Vincent Chainey
Pete Goodman
Andrew Kendall
Wes Read
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Alan Tawse - Town Clerk
Sally Freemantle – Assistant Town Clerk
Steve Barnes – Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC)
Mike Lock –Central Ward Member

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/245 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July, copies of which had already been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/246 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Chandler, Clive Davis, Dave Gooding, Tom Parsley and Jon Trevett.

7/247 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

J Vincent Chainey declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8 – Allotment Rent Review – due to his tenancy of an allotment at Rustywell Allotment Site.

7/248 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence

7/249 PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

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

With regard to maintenance Steve Barnes informed the Committee that the grass had now grown underneath the high swings at Yew Tree Park securing the safety surface in place so the apparatus was now back in operation. He explained that new signs for Yew Tree Park would be installed some time in September following the disappearance of the signs at the same time that two went missing from Ninesprings. It was suggested that the sign be marked with a sticker or small sign to state that they had no scrap value and Steve Barnes undertook to ensure that the new signs carried this information.

With regard to play area refurbishment, Steve Barnes explained that not all of the contingency for the Yew Tree Park Play Area Refurbishment Budget had been spent and it was suggested that the installation of some steps leading up to the feature slide would improve the facility and prevent the slope becoming too worn and muddy. It was also explained that a number of additional litter bins had been installed and that some of the stones had been dislodged from the dry stone wall and use of any remaining contingency would be well spent by pointing up the wall to make it less vulnerable to damage and to last longer.

Whilst the Committee supported these ideas, it was requested that costings be presented to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee prior to any approval being granted.

With regard to Monksdale play area, Steve Barnes explained that the next stage of the project was the analysis of the tender documents in consultation with the Town Clerk, Ruth Kendall, Chairman of Monksdale Play Area Steering Group and Steve Hawker, Chairman of Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

The Committee requested that Alan Smith, as Vice Chairman of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee, also be consulted on this matter.

RESOLVED

- (1) that all the above matters and developments be noted;
- (2) that costings for installation of steps leading up to the feature slide, the installation of additional litter bins and pointing up of the dry stone wall at Yew Tree Park be brought to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee by the Play Area and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) for consideration; and
- (3) that Steve Barnes, Play Area and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) and Rob Parr, Senior Play Area and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC), in consultation with the Town Clerk, Chairman of the Monksdale Play Area Steering Group and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Grounds and General Maintenance Committee be authorised to appoint the preferred contractor to undertake the play area refurbishment works at Monksdale play area – provided that the works are in line with the allocated budget and the plans agreed at the last meeting of the Committee.

7/250 YEW TREE PARK PLAY AREA

Following the verbal update given by Steve Barnes, Play and Youth Facilities Officer, during the previous Agenda item, it was noted that costings for various additional works would be available at the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

RESOLVED

that the matter be referred to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

7/251 NEW INITIATIVE BUDGET

The Committee considered the report from the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers) and discussed the proposals, recognising that for the initiative to be progressed, further funding opportunities would be required and significant partnership working would need to be put in place. It was therefore felt that it was not the right time to be pursuing the idea.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the initiative of a new town farm not be pursued further at this time.

7/252 ALLOTMENT RENT REVIEW

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that no action be taken regarding the increase in allotment rent in respect of the year commencing 1st October 2011 (Alan Smith requested that his vote against this resolution be noted).

7/253 ALLOTMENT TENANTS WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered the outcomes of the meeting of the Allotment Tenants Working Group held on Monday 2 August 2010.

With regard to the boundary hedging at Hillcrest, the Town Clerk explained to the Committee that Yarlinton Homes had been approached and had promised to write to all tenants regarding the matter.

With regard to the pathway between plots 1 and 2 at Rustywell, it was confirmed that the Town Council would investigate potential ways to improve the situation.

With regard to the padlock missing on the wooden gate used to gain access to the site from Lysander Road, the Assistant Town Clerk explained she

would contact the Countryside Officer and the suggestion of a chain being welded to the post was noted.

With regard to the tree stump at Rustywell parking area, the Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that she would ensure that the weeds surrounding the tree stump were cut back.

With regard to the boundary issues at Sunningdale, the Town Clerk explained that quotations had been received and were currently being considered by Raglan Housing who had previously indicated that they would consider making a contribution towards the costs involved.

With regard to the fruit being picked by a local resident at Newtown, the Town Clerk explained that he had spoken to the tenant site representative on the day of the Allotment Tenants Working Group meeting and that the matter had been reported to the Police.

With regard to the boundary fence at Larkhill, the Assistant Town Clerk explained that the matter had been referred to the maintenance team at South Somerset District Council.

With regard to St George's, the Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that the maintenance operative had adjusted the main tap onto the site which had improved pressure. However, if all taps on the site were to be used simultaneously, it was inevitable that the water pressure to each tap would be reduced.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/254 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

RECOMMENDED

that the Financial Statement for June and July 2010 be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.