

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 7 September 2009.**

(7:00pm – 8.10pm)

Present:

Alan Smith - Chairman
Phil Chandler
Pete Goodman
Steve Hawker
Jon Trevett (co-opted non-voting)

Also Present:

Steven Barnes – Play and Youth Facilities Officer - SSDC
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/176 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/177 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Dave Gooding, John Grana, Dave Greene, Simon Hester and Wes Read.

7/178 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7/179 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

7/180 PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES UPDATE

The Play and Youth Facilities Officer, Steve Barnes, advised that the play equipment at St. John's Road had recently been repainted.

The requested alterations to the disused recycling bay at Monks Dale Recreation Ground were now incorporated into the District Council's work plan and would be carried out in due course.

Steve advised that he would inform Rich Davy, Street Scene Services Co-ordinator of the reported damage to chain link fencing running along side the Howard Road Recreation Ground and ask him to inform the Committee of his findings.

Steve would also follow up a member's report that the District Council's chain link fence opposite Milford Dip allotments had been ripped out and was now partially obstructing a pathway. It was thought that some of the damage might have been a result of recent road works carried out by a local construction company. The Town Clerk gave Steve the contractor's contact telephone number to investigate.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/181 YEW TREE PARK REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Steve Barnes advised that works had now commenced on the ground works for the large slide. The mound would need to settle prior to the installation of the slide. It was envisaged that the Cornish hedge would be complete within a couple of weeks. The Yew Tree Park hedge would be bound by lime mortar to make it more secure.

The Committee was advised that Rob Parr, Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer would be away from work for up to 3 months following an accident. The Town Clerk indicated that, on behalf of the Town Council, he had wished him a speedy recovery.

Due to Rob's absence, Steve advised the Committee that a firm of tendering consultants had been appointed to carry out the required tendering exercise for play equipment and installation; moreover, that the cost of this work would be paid for by South Somerset District Council.

Steve Barnes was heading up the play area project in Rob's absence. He said that some equipment had already been ordered. He also advised that the water company were not in favour of a play water feature, which they felt was a potentially inefficient use of water.

Steve advised that there would be a laminated A4 notice posted at Yew Tree Park prior to the commencement of the main work programme. He envisaged a similar sign to that erected at the Yeovil Recreation area.

Steve warned the Committee that although every effort would be made to complete the project on time, he could not promise completion due to staff shortages and the additional work that had still to be carried out at Mudford Recreation play area.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need for the Town Council to be consulted on the tenders received prior to the acceptance stage.

It was agreed that due to the envisaged popularity of Yew Tree Park, there would be a need for a safe pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Forest Hill. This would involve the installation of phased lights to enable children to cross the road safely, without the danger of motorists quickly turning left from Lysander Road. It was noted that this matter had previously been raised by the Town Council with the Highway Authority, which had undertaken to bear it in mind as part of a future highway improvement programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that arrangements be made for the Town Council to be consulted on the tenders received prior to acceptance;
- (3) that, to minimise any delay in proceeding with the Project, the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be authorised to liaise with the District Council regarding the tender acceptance process; and
- (4) that, given the imminent upgrade of the Yew Tree Park Play area, the Assistant Town Clerk write to the Highway Authority reiterating the need for a phased light control at the bottom of Forest Hill.

7/182 ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE WORK

The Allotment Work spreadsheet was circulated to the Committee for comment (Agenda Item 7 refers).

The Committee was disappointed that the Street Scene Co-ordinator was not present at the meeting to explain the detail behind the figures presented.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to a number of complaints received by Members about the allotment maintenance work programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that in light of the above-mentioned complaints, further details be obtained about the level, frequency and cost of allotment maintenance work being undertaken under the current work programme and a detailed report be submitted to the next meeting; and
- (3) that the Town Clerk explore other options for procuring this maintenance work, and his findings be reported to the next meeting;

7/183 **DOG BIN INSTALLATION AT ABBEY ROAD**

The Committee considered the update provided by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers) and noted that a 'chute' style waste bin had been purchased and installed in Abbey Road, next to the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/184 **DOG CONTROL ORDERS WORKSHOP**

The Committee considered the letter from the District Council's Enforcement Officer (Agenda Item 9 refers) regarding offences to be covered by forthcoming legislation and agreed to nominate two Town Council members to attend the workshop on 27 October.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that Phil Chandler and Dave Greene be appointed to represent the Town Council at the above Workshop.

7/185 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING JULY 2009**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 June 2009 to 31 July 2009 (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