

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 1 June 2015**

(7:00pm – 8:40pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Chairman
Philip Chandler
Kaysar Hussain
Andrew Kendall
Mike Lock
Evie Potts-Jones
Wes Read
Darren Shutler
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Andrew Pugsley
Rob Stickland

Helen Ferdinand	Assistant Town Clerk (job share)
Sally Freemantle	Assistant Town Clerk (job share)
Rich Davy	Streetscene Co-ordinator
Steve Fox	Principal Horticultural Officer (SSDC)
Rob Parr	Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC)
Allan Cavill	South West Mentor for the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

9/4 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9/5 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

9/6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Manny Roper declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in agenda item 12, Allotments due to his allotment tenancy with Yeovil Town Council and the extent of his usage of the service under consideration.

Andrew Pugsley declared a Personal interest in agenda item 12, Allotments due to his allotment tenancy with Yeovil Town Council.

9/7 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

9/8 **KINGSTON VIEW PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) (Agenda item 5 refers) and it was agreed that the following Members take part in the Steering Group which will oversee the development of a project plan, site specific consultation, design, procurement and construction work; Andrew Kendall, Manny Roper and Alan Smith.

A request was made that a dog bin be moved to a more accessible location and a query was made regarding the bench.

RESOLVED

(1) that the matter be noted; and

(2) that Andrew Kendall, Manny Roper and Alan Smith represent the Committee on the Kingston View Play Area Steering Group

9/9 **SUMMERHOUSE VIEW PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the verbal report of the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer during which it was reported that a new replacement retaining wall had been installed and the timber fencing replaced with galvanised steel. New steps and ramps were also in place and the equipment had been painted with the help of the Youth Council.

Photographs of the finished scheme were circulated and some concern was raised regarding the top of a steel support at the bottom of the steps.

RESOLVED

(1) that the matter be noted; and

(2) that a timber cap be placed on the top of the steel support at the bottom of the edge of the steps.

9/10 **PLAY AREA REPAIRS**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (Agenda item 7 refers).

Discussion took place regarding the rubber wet pour safety surfaces and it was confirmed that the surfaces at Grass Royal were within a schedule to be replaced. It was added that the sand had been topped up at Yew Tree Park. It was also suggested that a tour of all the Play Areas for Committee Members be arranged.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a tour of all Play Areas for Members be arranged.

9/11 **OPEN SPACES**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers). The Principal Horticultural Officer informed Members that the results of the last two months inspections were 97% good and 3% fair pass and 98% good, 1% fair pass and 1% minor fail – the minor fail being due to weeding required at Milford Park.

It was agreed that the following four Members of the Committee be nominated to carry out site inspections alongside the Principal Horticultural Officer:

Town Council Wards	Councillor Nominated	Equivalent District Council Ward
Central Ward Milford Ward	Andy Kendall	Central Ward
East Ward New Town Ward	Manny Roper	East Ward
Long Mead Ward Preston Ward South Ward	Andrew Pugsley	South Ward
Hollands Ward Park Ward West Ward White Mead Ward	Alan Smith	West Ward

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that Andy Kendall, Andrew Pugsley, Manny Roper and Alan Smith be nominated as Open Spaces representatives for the Committee.

9/12 **ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

The Committee considered the Allotment Maintenance Schedule (Agenda item 9 refers).

RESOLVED

that the schedule be noted.

9/13 **ALLOTMENT TENANTS WORKING GROUP**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Allotment Tenants Working Group (circulated separately).

RESOLVED

that the the minutes of the Allotment Tenants Working Group be noted.

9/14 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 February to 31 March 2015 (Agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

9/15 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

9/16 **ALLOTMENTS**

(Manny Roper having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

The Committee, with Darren Shutler in the Chair, considered the confidential report by the Assistant Town Clerk (agenda item 12 refers) and the Chariman introduced Allan Cavill, South West Mentor for the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) who attended the meeting to advise on the matter raised in the reports from Wessex Water.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that confirmation be requested for the liability of contravention of the first section of the reports from Wessex Water;
- (3) that an extension of time be requested from Wessex Water to complete the second section of the reports on all allotment sites;
- (4) that confirmation be requested from Wessex Water that the work outlined in the second section of the reports be compulsory if all standpipes were to be replaced with fixed water troughs fitted with ball cocks.

- (5) that if it is confirmed that (4) (above) is not compulsory, and a leave of extension be negotiated, investigate the cost of replacing all standpipes with fixed water troughs filled directly from the mains and fitted with ball cocks and refer to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (6) that in light of the advice recently received from Wessex Water, the proposed modification of the existing taps to remove the threads in accordance with the proposed timetable of implementation agreed by Wessex Water and following all tenants being advised of the situation and the reasons for changes to mains water usage on allotment sites.

Chairman

SF
15/06/15