



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor : Cllr D Recardo, Town Clerk : Amanda Card *BA (Hons), CPFA*
T-01935 382424, F-01935 382429, W - www.yeovil.gov.uk
E-mail town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds & General Maintenance Committee of Yeovil Town Council held on 19th November 2018 at 7.00pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ

Present: Cllrs M Roper (Chairman); J Conway; M Lock; E Potts-Jones; A Pugsley; F Purbrick; D Recardo; A Smith and A Soughton.

In Attendance: Amanda Card (Town Clerk), Rob Parr – Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) and Steve Fox – Principal Horticultural Officer (SSDC).

There were no members of the public and no members of the press present.

7.00pm - Meeting commenced.

9/243 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN.

There were no apologies for absence.

9/244 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Members declare interests that accord with the Council's adopted Code of Conduct. This does not preclude any later declarations.

Cllrs A Pugsley, D Recardo and M Roper declared a pecuniary interest in 9/254 Allotment Rent Review in that they were all allotment holders.

9/245 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2018.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2018 were signed and dated as a correct record.

9/246 PLAY AREA UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer. The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer informed the committee that the painting of the skate ramps at Yew Tree Park would be deferred until next spring. It was asked that this does not coincide with the school holidays. The new rubber surface either side of the embankment slide at Yew Tree Park is due to be fitted next week. The litter bin at Milford

Adventure Park is due to be installed next week. The new Rope Ladder at Westland Road Park was fitted today and both gates at Grass Royal Play Area had been replaced.

A question was raised concerning a gate at Yew Tree Park to make it less accessible for toddlers. The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officers said this would be tricky as that particular gate was designed to have no catches. It was pointed out that the park is an unsupervised park and children should be under the constant supervision of a responsible adult.

It was brought to the attention of the Committee the rotten raised beds near to St Marks Church. It was agreed that Cllrs M Lock and M Roper along with the Principal Horticultural Officer would look at this and report back at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report of the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer; and (2) that Cllrs M Lock and M Roper along with the Principal Horticultural Officer would look at the rotten raised beds near to St Marks Church and report their findings at the next meeting of this Committee.

9/247 FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMMED FOR MILFORD, BIRCHFIELD, WESTFIELD AND YEW TREE

The Committee considered the report by the Young Peoples Officer. The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer added that the activities were very popular and that the activities were well attended. There were a wide range of activities which broadened children's experiences.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report of the Young Peoples Officer; and (2) that the Young Peoples Officer be thanked for his report.

9/248 ROSEBERRY RECREATION GROUND SHLETER

The Committee discussed the request. This was the only request received concerning the removal of the shelter due to anti-social behaviour issues. Other key stakeholders had commented that the Roseberry Recreation Ground Shelter had not been reported as an issue.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the request; (2) that the Chief Inspector for Neighbourhood Policing be informed of the complaint; and (3) that the Deputy Town Clerk respond to the request stating that the shelter would not be removed and that the local police should be contacted each and every time an issue occurs.

7:25 pm – The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer left the meeting and did not return.

9/249 OPEN SPACES UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the report of the Principal Horticulture Officer.

RESOLVED: to note the report of the Principal Horticultural Officer.

9/250 SIDNEY GARDENS

Members considered the report of the Principal Horticulture Officer.

The Principal Horticultural Officer explained that there had been a continued public interest of Sidney Gardens and that the local residents had been out in force litter picking.

He informed the Committee of the options available for the fountain and gave the pros and cons to each option. A handout was distributed which highlighted the proposed solution. He also explained the procurement process that would be followed.

RESOLVED: to note the report of the Principal Horticultural Officer.

7:52 pm – The Principal Horticultural Officer left the meeting and did not return.

9/251 ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Members considered the Maintenance Schedule. They were informed by the Town Clerk that the Amenities Officer would be going on a spraying course over the winter months ready to put his new skills into use in the spring.

RESOLVED: that the Allotment Maintenance Schedule be noted.

9/252 BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS

Cllr A Pugsley put forward a request to include Westlands Allotments in the Best Kept Allotments Competition.

RESOLVED: (1) that a new category be introduced – “Best Non Yeovil Town Council Allotment Plot”; and (2) that a new trophy be procured for this new category.

9/253 PRESTION PARK

The Committee considered the verbal report regarding complaints of dogs and dog fouling in and around the play equipment at Preston Park.

RESOLVED: (1) that quotes be sought to reinstate a fence; and (2) that a “No Dogs Allowed” sign be erected.

9/254 ALLOTMENT RENT REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the rent for the year commencing 1st January 2020. The Town Clerk advised that the costs were reducing and were likely to reduce further due to work likely to be carried out by the Amenities Officer in the future rather than a third party. She continued to say that it was highly probable that if there were any further increases, it had been mooted that more tenants would surrender their tenancies. She further added to say that untenanted plots costs the Town Council more managed and maintain than the revenue that could be generated from it being tenanted.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted; (2) that the benchmarking be noted; (3) to consider the use of skips in the future; (4) to recommend to Policy, Resources and Finance Committee that the annual rent not be increased for the year commencing 1st January 2020, but a grant for £2,500 be awarded for the purposes of health and wellbeing; and (5) should (4) be approved by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, that a Working Group be set up to agree how the £2,500 be used.

8:55 pm – Cllrs J Conway and M Lock left the meeting and did not return.

9/255 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE/JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st June to 30 September 2018.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st June to 30 September 2018 be approved.

9/256 DRAFT BUDGET 2019/20

The Committee considered the draft budget 2019/20 for Grounds and General Maintenance.

RESOLVED: that the draft budget 2019/20 for Grounds and General Maintenance be recommended to Policy Resources and Finance Committee.

9/257 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public 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 of agenda item 9/348 would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3

9/258 OAKHURST NURSERY – URGENT DECISION (COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE)

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk regarding the emergency lighting at Milford Hall in accordance with Standing Order 51 (Urgent Business). This Standing Order requires that any action taken should be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the use of Standing Order 51 be noted.

Signed: (Chairman) Date: