

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 14.00 in the Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:-Councillor P Johnson (Chairman), Councillors P Glover, M Meakin, G Nash, C Shingler, E Towers and Mrs P. O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1 **Chairman** – To elect Committee Chairman.

**Resolved**:- to elect Cllr Johnson as chairman of this committee for the period 2017-18.

2 **Apologies** - To receive any apologies for absence.

**Resolved**:- to accept the following apology for absence  
P Broomhall

3 **Declaration of pecuniary interests** – to receive declarations of interest.

| Councillor  | Item  | Dispensation |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| Cllr Towers | Members declared a pecuniary interest in Item 9 Allotments as he is married to an allotment tenant. | None         |

4 **Minutes** To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Resolved**:- to approve the minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and they were duly signed as a true record.

5 **Progress Report on items raised at previous meeting** – for consideration.

**Resolved**:- to note the report.

6 **Streetlights**

a) LED conversion tender document – for update. It was reported that the tender document is nearing completion.

**Resolved**:- to recommend that the deadline for submission of tenders is set as of 31.8.17.

7 **Toilets**

a) To receive an update on charging income.  
The figures for the income and usage since 1.4.17 were circulated and it was;

**Resolved**:- to note the data.

b) Old Toilet Block – to consider email received relating to ownership of toilet block.

A discussion took place on this item and whilst there was some interest from members of the Committee in the Town Council taking on ownership of the old toilet block, it was agreed that until a business plan has been developed on the future management of the toilet block the Committee supported the existing stance that the Town Council is not the owner of these toilets.

**Resolved:-** to recommend that the Town Council maintains its position that the old toilet block on the recreation ground remains in the ownership of Shropshire Council as per the correspondence held on file.

**Further Resolved:-** to recommend that the future use of the Old Toilet Block be considered by the Asset Transfer Working Party.

## **8 Play Areas/ Open Spaces**

a) Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Grant – to consider correspondence on this application. A discussion took place on the decision by Shropshire Council not to award an Environmental Maintenance Grant to the Town Council. The Clerk explained that the application was submitted to request a contribution towards the maintenance that the Town Council undertakes on the Shropshire Council owned play areas as well as other areas of the town which come under the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

**Resolved:-** to recommend that the Town Council write to Shropshire Council expressing concern over the decision and to state that in light of this decision The Council will reconsider its stance on the transfer of the play areas.

b) Whitchurch Road POS to consider request to adopt the play area on land off Whitchurch Road, Wem (Willmot Meadow).

It was reported that despite requesting an update in time for the meeting no update was available.

**Resolved:-** to note.

## **9 Allotments**

a) Paths – For update on condition of slabbed paths between plots. It was reported that 2 quotes for the work had been sought but only one received. Following a discussion the clerk was instructed to seek a further quote for the work.

**Resolved:-** to delegate authority for the awarding of this works contract to the Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairman.

b) Plots – to arrange plot inspection and receive a report on vacant plots. It was reported that all plots were now let.

**Resolved:-** that the Clerk, Cllr Glover and Cllr Johnson would arrange to inspect the plots in the next month.

b) Purchase of additional allotment land – for consideration. A discussion took place on this item. It was suggested that instead of attempting to purchase additional land adjacent to the existing allotments, the field off Trentham Road currently owned by Shropshire Council and under negotiation as part of the Asset Transfer process may be a suitable site for additional allotment space.

**Resolved:- to recommend that this suggestion is considered as part of any future asset transfer discussions with Shropshire Council.**

**10 Love Lane Cemetery**

**a) Issuing of Exclusive Right of Burial – for update.**

It was reported that no progress other than joining the ICCM had been made on this issue. The Clerk expressed an interest in attending an ICCM course on the subject.

**Resolved:- to recommend that the Clerk attends a training course on Exclusive Right of Burial with the ICCM.**

**b) Gravestone damage – to consider complaint received.**

The Clerk outlined that a complaint had been received that alleged that damage had been caused to a headstone from stones being propelled against the headstone during mowing operations. The Clerk circulated photos of the damage along with a letter from a stonemason supporting the allegation. After studying photos of the damage, along with photos of the machinery used to cut the grass, Councillors felt that there was insufficient evidence to suggest that the mower had caused the damage.

**Resolved:- to contact the complainant stating that the Town Council does not accept responsibility for the damage and to refer the matter to the Town Council's insurers.**

**11 Floral Planters**

**a) Entrance Planter Sponsorship – for update.**

It was reported that Wem Rotary had donated £100 to the upkeep of the entrance planters.

**Resolved:- to note**

**12 Councillor Asset Inspection – to arrange.**

Councillors considered the suggestion that an inspection of the Town Council's main assets by members of the Committee is undertaken.

**Resolved:- that the Clerk be asked to organise an inspection.**

**13 Asset Transfer from Shropshire Council – for update.**

It was reported that no communication has been received from Shropshire Council on this issue.

**14 Date and time of next meeting – to note.**

**Resolved:- to note that the next meeting of this Committee would be 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 14.00 Venue TBC**

Meeting ended 15.45

Chairman.....