

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 18.30 in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

Present:- Councillor P Johnson (Chairman), Councillors, P Broomhall, R Drummond, M Meakin.

3 members of the public present

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

- 1 Election of Chairman** – to elect a committee chairman

Resolved:- to elect Cllr Johnson as committee chairman for 2022-23

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

Resolved:- to note the apology for absence from Cllr Soul (away).
Absent M Hoffmann and A Everett

- 3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests** - to receive declarations of interest.
None declared.

- 4 Minutes** - To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 3rd March 2022.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2022 and they were duly signed as a true record by the meeting chairman.

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

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 6 Toilets**

a) Recreation Ground Toilet Block – for update.

The Clerk's report was considered and the committee was informed that the plumbers were currently working on the building but as yet there was no definite opening date.

Resolved:- to note the report.

b) Income – for update.

Resolved:- to note the income received to date from the public toilets on the main car park.

- 7 Play Areas/Open Spaces**

a) Recreation Ground

i) Railings replacement to agree design and consider quotes received
It was reported that only 1 quote had been received which is more than budgeted funds.

Resolved:- that the item is deferred to next meeting so that the Clerk can seek more quotes and councillors can consider which type of decorative top (if any) they would consider on the railings.

ii) Play equipment painting – to consider quotes received.

It was reported that despite advertising for quotes via social media and seeking recommendations from other Clerks only 1 quote to date had been received for the work

Resolved:- to defer this matter to the next meeting.

iii) Concession stand – to discuss (deferred from previous meeting).

Resolved:- to not to proceed with this item.

iv) Skate area correspondence – for consideration

Resolved:-

- **not to progress with the suggestions of additional equipment in the skate area currently due to concerns over insurance and health and safety.**
- **to hold a meeting with Mr Watton to discuss his ideas in more detail.**
- **The Clerk to find out if the portable skate park is still available for hire from Shropshire Council.**

8 Allotments

a) To receive a report on plot vacancies and outcome of recent inspection
The Chairman reported on the recent inspection and explained that improvement letters had been issued to those tenants deemed to be in breach of their tenancy.

Resolved:- to note the report.

9 Cemetery

a) Breach of Headstone Regulations – to discuss
(item taken after agenda item 4)

Resolved:- to suspend standing orders for 5 minutes at 18.33 to allow members of the family to speak on this subject.

Member of the deceased's family requested that the Council give permission for the exposed concrete foundation stone to be covered with a piece of stone to match the existing headstone.

At 18.45 standing orders were reconvened.

A discussion took place on this item and the clerk explained that the foundation stone was supposed to be sunken and as it was exposed it was too wide and in breach of regulations. Councillors acknowledged that the regulations had been changed after the permit for the headstone had been given and that the family had encountered difficulty with stonemasons during the process of erecting the headstone.

Resolved:-

- to permit the installation of a 92cm long, 12cm wide, 1cm thick piece of stone matching the existing headstone to cover the exposed foundation stone.
- that permission would only be given for the two smaller moveable inscribed hearts if they were altered so that they could stand in their entirety at the base of the headstone and not on the grass.
- to update memorial regulations to clearly state that oversize sunken foundation stones are not permitted in Love Lane Cemetery.

b) Extension project – for discussion

The Clerk reported that she had contacted one company specialising in cemetery design and was still awaiting a response. Due to workload it would not be possible to progress this project until the Autumn

Resolved:- to defer to the next meeting.

- 10 Jubilee Tree** – to consider request from Wem Playmates to plant a tree for the Jubilee on one of the public open spaces.

Resolved:- to delegate to Groundsman and Clerk to identify a suitable location and liaise with Wem Playmates about this.

- 11 Date and time of meetings** - to note time and date of next meeting.

Tuesday 13th September 16.00

Meeting ended 19.30

Chairman.....