

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 14.00 in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

Present:- Councillor P Johnson (Chairman), Councillors, P Broomhall, M Meakin, G Soul, E Towers.

Also in attendance Cllr Parry

1 member of the public present. Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies** - To receive any apologies for absence.
The following apologies were received Cllrs Drummond and Hoffmann.
- 2 **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests** - To receive declarations of interest.
Cllr Meakin declared a bias interest in item 8 as Vice Chairman of the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery committee
- 3 **Minutes** - To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 13.12.22.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13.12.22 and they were signed as a true record by the meeting chairman.

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

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 5 **Toilets**
a) Income – for update.
The Clerk circulated the income to date and reported that she still had not received any update from Nayax regarding payment of the outstanding balance on the recreation ground contactless payments system.

Resolved:- to note the report.

- b) Re-opening of recreation ground toilets – to agree date.

Resolved:- to open the toilet block from 1.4.23 as long as a satisfactory result from the legionella test undertaken on 14.3.23 has been received prior to this date.

- 6 **Play Areas/Open Spaces**
a) Fencing – to discuss
A discussion took place and Cllr Towers suggested that the Committee consider the use of some redundant railings adjacent to Fir Tree Lane. The Clerk explained that there was a height difference between these railings and the recreation ground railings and that ownership of the railings was unclear.

Resolved:- that

- Cllr Towers seek to identify who owns of the railings alongside Fir Tree Lane.

- **A site meeting will take place with Cllr Broomall, Cllr Towers and the Groundsman, to consider the suitability of relocating the Fir Tree Lane railings to the Recreation Ground.**
- **Advice will be sought by Cllr Towers on whether the Fir Tree Lane railings could be modified by a contractor so that they match the height of the existing railings.**
- **The Clerk will discuss the matter with the Town Council's insurance.**

b) Overhanging Tree – to consider correspondence received.

The Clerk explained that due to the number of trees that are under the Town Council's responsibility and the limited budget available. It was only possible to carry out work on trees on safety grounds.

A discussion took place on this item along with the views of the tree surgeon who stated that they did not identify any work being required to the tree on safety grounds.

Resolved :-to recommend that the Town Council does not agree to undertake any pruning of the tree.

c) Grasscutting - to review grass cutting regime in certain locations on The Wheatfields and Trentham Road Public Open Spaces to improve biodiversity and decide whether to continue during 2023.

Resolved:- to continue to leave longer areas of grass on The Wheatfields and Trentham Road Public Open Space during 2023.

7 Allotments

a) To receive a report on plot vacancies and outcome of recent inspection
Cllr Johnson reported that there were no plot vacancies and that a recent allotment inspection had taken place and that improvement letters for plots identified as needing attention were to be sent out.

Resolved:- to note the report.

b) Boundary between allotments 1b, 1aa, 1c and 1a – to discuss

The Clerk explained that this plot was unusual as it had been added on after the allotments had been established which may account for the non straight line of its boundary and the informal fence.

Resolved:- to maintain current boundary between plots 1b, 1aa, 1c and 1a and agree to remeasure the boundary between the plot 1a and 1c and remove the fence if plot 1c is vacated, prior to it being re let.

8 Cemetery

a) Love Lane / Whitchurch Road Cemeteries - To consider an issue regarding plastic wreaths and other waste being disposed of in the Whitchurch Road Cemetery compost heap. Councillor Parry (a Town Council representative on the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery group) will attend to advise in detail. The committee agreed that this item could be discussed after item 3.

Cllr Meakin left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Cllr Parry presented this item and outlined the concerns of the committee.

A discussion took place and various options were considered including additional signage and a bin. It was also suggested that the best way to solve the problem would be to relocate the compost area away from the boundary and that the Town Council may be able to contribute towards the cost of this work.

Resolved:- to

- **request that Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery relocate the compost area and to consider contributing towards the cost of the relocation works at a future meeting subject to the amount requested.**

Cllr Meakin returned to the meeting

9 Street lights

a) to consider request for additional streetlight on High Street.

Resolved:-

- **To instruct the Clerk to contact the residents of 110 High Street to inform them of the proposed location of the new streetlight.**
- **Subject to the residents of 110 High Street having no objections to the proposed location for the streetlight, to recommend that an order is placed in April 2023 for the supply and installation of a streetlight as per the quote received from Highline Electrical.**

10 CCTV Update

a) to consider quote for works to White Lion Camera.

Resolved:- to recommend that an order is placed in April 2023 for the supply and installation of a new CCTV camera on the White Lion Public House as per the quote received from Securitywise.

b) to discuss access to the CCTV by outside organisations after the relocation of the CCTV system.

The Clerk reported that as part of the arrangements for the office relocation, following consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee she had placed an order with Ism-it for a refurbished computer that would be used by officers from West Mercia Police to view the CCTV system.

Resolved:- to approve.

11 Queen Elizabeth II memorial – to discuss.

Possible suggestions included refurbishment the skate ramps or renaming the Jubilee Square.

Resolved:- to defer further discussions on this to a future meeting.

12 Date and time of meetings - to discuss time and date of next meeting.

Resolved:- to set date of next meeting at the May annual meeting.

Meeting ended 15.05

Chairman.....