

Present:- Councillor P Johnson (Chairman), Councillors, P Broomhall, R Drummond, A Everett, C Granger, M Meakin, E Towers.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

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

Resolved:- to accept the apology for absence from Cllr Towers (away).
Absent Cllr Hoffmann

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

- 3 **Minutes** - To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 14th December 2021.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021 and they were duly signed as a true record by the meeting chairman.

- 4 **Progress Report on items raised at previous meeting** - for consideration.
The Clerk updated on recent damage to the public toilets over the weekend of the 26th & 27th February.

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 5 **Toilets**

a) Recreation Ground Toilet Block – to consider quotes received for works required to the building and to discuss reopening old toilet block.
Three quotes submitted for the renovation works were considered and following a discussion it was

Resolved:- to recommend that

- The Town Council will reopen the disabled toilet in the toilet block on Wem Recreation Ground on a seasonal basis between 1st April and 30th September each year for a minimum of 5 years.
- The contract for renovation works required on the building is awarded to Garroll Construction as per their quote.
- The contract for the renovation of the disabled toilet and installation of contactless pay machines is awarded to Healthmatic.
- Healthmatic's current cleaning contract is extended to incorporate the disabled toilet as per the quote submitted as part of the tendering process considered in December 2021.
- £10,000 is allocated from general reserves to fund the renovation work required for the reopening.

b) Income – for update.

Resolved:- to note toilet income to date of £1679.

- 6 **Play Areas/Open Spaces**

a) Recreation Ground

i) Railings refurbishment/replacement to discuss.

The Clerk explained that the companies approached to quote for cleaning had expressed the view that it would not be practical to sandblast the railings in-situ due to their location and proximity to the public footpath. Concerns were expressed about what condition the railings would be in after removal and cleaning and the potential cost of refurbishment works. Councillors also discussed the heritage value of the railings versus the safety implications of the spiked railings which a ROSPA trainer had recommended be replaced due to the spiked tops and the differing ground levels. Following a discussion it was

Resolved:- to recommend to Council that

- **The railings at the front of Wem Recreation Ground are replaced with new railings but that the original WH Smith Posts are retained.**
- **Once removed, the original railings are retained so that they may be restored at a later date and reused in a more suitable location in the town should one be identified.**
- **The Clerk is instructed to seek quotes for replacement railings which will be considered at a future committee meeting.**

ii) White lining work - to consider quote.

The Clerk explained that due to the specialist nature of this work only one quote had been obtained but as the contract was below £3000 this was permitted in the financial regulations.

Resolved:- to approve the quote and award the contract to reline the cycle lane markings on Wem Recreation Ground to Ash Linemarking.

iii) Play equipment painting – to consider quotes received.

The Clerk reported that she had only been able to get 1 quote and recommended that more quotes for this work were sought before a decision was made.

Resolved:- to defer to next meeting so that more quotes can be obtained.

iv) Concession stand – to discuss, as Councillor Hoffmann was not present it was

Resolved:- to defer this item to a future meeting.

b) Trentham Road – to consider request to prune tree and approve quote for. The Clerk highlighted that the recent tree inspection had not identified any issues with the tree.

Resolved:-

- **Not to carry out any works on the tree should the resident wish to pay for works to the tree to authorise the Clerk and Committee Chairman to meet with the resident to discuss any proposed works.**
- **A condition of the Council would be that if any works were undertaken on the tree they must only be carried out by Via Della Emilia.**

c) 2022 tree inspection report – for consideration.

Resolved:- to note the report and instruct the Clerk to arrange works in the new financial year.

d) Wilmot Meadow Fence removal from public open space at entrance – to receive a report of site meeting held to discuss condition of the fence.

Resolved:- to contact the neighbouring property owners to inform them that the Town Council will remove the fence and hawthorn tree and that it will not be replaced.

e) Grass Cutting – to discuss altering grass cutting regime in certain areas on The Wheatfields and Trentham Road Public Open Spaces to improve biodiversity.

Resolved:- to

- **Approve altering the cutting regime for a trial period to encourage bio diversity on both sites as part of the Town Council’s climate change commitment.**
This decision to be reviewed annually

7 Allotments

a) To receive a report on plot vacancies and outcome of recent inspection

Resolved:- to note the recent inspection report.

8 Cemetery

a) Policy Review – to consider recommendations from the policy review working party relating to the following Cemetery Policies.
Cllr Meakin and Cllr Johnson reported that they had reviewed the policies.

Resolved:- to recommend that the following policies are updated as per the recommendations

- **Cemetery Rules and Regulations**
- **Interment Form**
- **Memorial Application Form**
- **Memorial Safety Policy**

9 Streetlighting

a) Column replacement – for update.

The Clerk explained that 25 Category 5 Columns still needed replacement.

The total costs of replacing all remaining category 5 columns is estimated to be £41,500)

In the budget there is currently £21,479 in reserves along with £8000 budgeted for new lights in the 2022-23 budget total £29479 leaving a shortfall of £12,021

Resolved:- to recommend that due to the urgency of the work, the shortfall is allocated from any underspend in the 2021-22 budget with the balance coming from general reserves.

b) To consider the request for an additional streetlight at Greenacres (copy enclosed).

Resolved:- not to approve the request.

c) Electrical inspection – for update.

No update on this received from contractor

- 10** **Date and time of meetings** - to note time and date of next meeting.
Date of meeting not set as to be decided at the Town Council's Annual Meeting.

Meeting ended 19.00

Chairman.....