

Minutes of a Meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at 14.00 in the Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mellings for attending the meeting as he had been heavily involved in the LED conversion project at its start.

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

Resolved:- to accept the following apologies for absence

M Meakin, P Glover, P Broomhall.

Absent, C Shingler.

- 2 **Declaration of pecuniary interests** – to receive declarations of interest.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers	Member declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 Allotments as he is married to an allotment tenant.	None

- 3 **Minutes** To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 13th June 2017.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of 13th June 2017 and they were duly signed as a true record.

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

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 5 **Toilets**

a) To receive an update on charging income.

The Clerk circulated the income data received from charging since April 1st 2017.

b) Toilet Doors – The Clerk reported that the work to the toilet doors had now been completed and that the strike locks had made the doors far stronger than previously.

Resolved:- to note the reports.

- 6 **Play Areas/Open Spaces**

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

There was no update on this item.

b) Oak Tree Trentham Road – to consider request for inspection of tree.

The Clerk reported that concerns had been raised about a large Oak Tree on Trentham Road Play Area that partially overhung a neighbouring property. The concerns related to both the safety of the tree and the nuisance from leaf and

acorn drop. It was explained that the Town Council's biannual tree inspection undertaken in 2016 had recommended that deadwood be removed from the tree and this had been carried out. In addition to this an informal inspection carried out with Shropshire Council's tree officer David Woodhouse in October 2016 following a complaint about the condition of the tree had not raised any concerns over the health of the tree. As per the recommendations in the tree inspection the tree was monitored for change following high winds.

A discussion took place and it was;

Resolved:- to recommend that Town Council staff continue to monitor the tree and that inspectors are made aware of the concerns raised by the resident at the next tree inspection due in 2018.

Cllr Nash left the meeting at 15.00.

c) Rospa Report – to note inspection undertaken. The Clerk reported that the swing seat identified as being in need of replacement following the report had been purchased and that the wet pour was being monitored weekly for any changes.

7 Allotments

a) Paths – for update on condition of slabbed paths between plots.

It was reported that there had been little success in obtaining a second quote for the works as the 2 companies approached had failed to provide a quote. Cllr Johnson agreed to approach another contractor in an attempt to seek a quote for the works.

b) Plots – for update on untidy plots and to arrange plot inspection. The Clerk reported that over the Summer she had received complaints from tenants over the condition of some allotments as weeds were encroaching onto neighbouring plots. As a result of this 4 letters had been sent to allotment holders whose plots were particularly overgrown. A further inspection of the plots in early September revealed that some work had been undertaken on all four plots. A further plot was identified as being in a poor condition and an improvement letter has been sent.

Resolved:- to arrange an Autumn inspection of plots with Cllr Johnson and Cllr Glover.

c) Tree – to consider request to remove tree from plot.

A request had been received from a tenant for the removal of a sweet chestnut tree adjacent to her plot. It was reported that the tree was self-seeded and now the plot had been split it half in shaded one of the plots significantly limiting the growing space. A quote for the removal of the tree was considered and it was

Resolved:- to recommend removal of the tree.

8 Love Lane Cemetery

a) Brick Wall – to consider undertaking work to finish wall. A discussion took place on the need to complete the retaining wall along the border with the closed churchyard as it was no longer used as a soil store. The lack of seating in the cemetery was also raised and it was suggested that it may be possible for a recess

to be cut into the retaining wall as part of these works to provide an area for a seat to be located.

Resolved:- that the Clerk seek a quote for finishing the wall and for the cost of cutting a recess into the wall to provide a seating area.

- 9 Community Tree Scheme** – to consider taking part in scheme.
No areas requiring new trees were suggested.

Resolved:- not to take part in the scheme this year.

- 10 Date and time of next meeting** – to note.

Resolved:- to note date of the next meeting as 12th December 2017 2pm

- 11 Exclusion of Press and Public**

This item was taken after item 4 as Cllr Nash had to leave the meeting early.

To resolve that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED:- to exclude press and public – none present.

a) LED Streetlight conversion– to consider tenders submitted.
The Clerk presented the quotes received as part of the tender process.

RESOLVED:- to recommend that the contract for the conversion of the Town Council owned SOX and SON streetlights to LED lights and associated other electrical works be awarded to Highline Electrical as per their quote, subject to the company being able to complete the works by 31.12.17.

Meeting ended 15.20

Chairman