

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in the Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:-Councillor C J Mellings (Chairman), Councillors, Mrs P A Dee, Mrs R Dodd, P Broomhall, J Murray. Mrs P. O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

- 1 **Apologies** - To receive any apologies for absence.
Resolved:-to receive the following apologies for absence
Cllrs D Boddy, P. Glover, C. Granger, C Shingler.
Absent - Cllr M Meakin.

- 2 Declaration of pecuniary interests.
Resolved:-to accept the following interests declared

| Councillor | Item | Dispensation |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Murray | Item 6a planters - bias interest | |

- 3 **Minutes** To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 10 November 2015.

Resolved:- that the minutes of a meeting of this Committee held on 10 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- 4 **Toilets**
a) To review usage data produced by Healthmatic - The first month's figures were presented and analysed by the committee. The Clerk reported that Healthmatic had agreed to leave the counters in for another month free of charge so further analysis of use could be carried out prior to a final decision on charging being made.

Resolved:- to recommend in principal to the April Town Council meeting that charges for use of the toilets are introduced.

b) To consider any maintenance issues relating to the public toilets.
It was reported that the locks on the internal toilet doors were to be repaired this week. The Clerk was asked to check this work and report back to the next meeting.

- 5 **Progress Report on items raised at previous meeting** – for consideration.
The Clerk updated the following items on the progress report;
Play areas - replacement flat swing seats have been ordered for Trentham Road play area as the old swing seats were cracked.
Forthergill Way Open Space - As there had been no response to the previous attempts to contact the developers about the open space adjacent to Fothergill Way the Clerk was asked to contact them again to try and progress the situation.
Resolved:- to note the report.

- 6 **Planters** –
a) To consider quotes received for supply of plants, watering and maintenance of floral planters.

Cllr Murray left the room and took no part in discussions.

It was reported that 2 quotes had been received for the watering and maintenance of the planters.

Resolved:- to award the contract for watering and maintenance of the floral planters to Mr Murray as per his quote of 13.1.16 due to the price of the quote and the quality of his work during 2015.

Resolved:- to award the contract for supply of plants for 2016 to Homedene Nursery.

b) To consider the purchase of new planters for Jubilee Square and to consider comments received from Mr Cobbold on the proposal.

The email received from Mr Cobbold was considered and the Clerk was asked to respond that the Town Council were confident that the funds allocated in the 2016-17 budget would be sufficient to cover the purchase and maintenance of new planters for the Town Square. The Clerk was also asked to write to Wem Gardening Club to thank them for all their work maintaining the planters on the High Street.

Resolved:- to recommend that the Town Council purchase 4 barrel planters from Amberol and lease 1x 3 tiered ready planted planter from Plantscape as per their quote.

7 Streetlights

a) To receive a report on recent meeting with Eon to discuss future repairs to lights in Bailey Close.

It was reported that 4 streetlights on a footpath that runs between Lowe Hill Road and Somerset Way were located in the gardens of properties backing onto the footpath after residents had extended their gardens to include land adjacent to the footpath where the lights were located. Due to the fact that the lights are now located in private gardens it was not possible for them to be properly inspected, however a visual inspection had revealed that they are in need of maintenance as the columns are made of concrete and showing signs of deterioration. The Clerk reported that the remaining path is narrow and there may be insufficient space to locate new lights on the path itself. In addition to this the installation of new lights would involve a new power cable having to be laid in the footway to supply the lights which would increase the cost significantly.

Following a discussion it was;

Resolved:- to recommend to The Town Council that as an interim measure the 4 lights in gardens adjacent to the footpath are removed and disconnected.

b) To consider quote for replacement of category 3 concrete columns.

It was reported that 18 concrete columns had been identified as being in need of replacement following the inspection of all the council's streetlights.

Resolved:- to recommend approval of the quote supplied by Eon the Council's streetlighting contractor for the replacement of 18 category 3 concrete columns as identified in the street lighting survey.

c) To consider cost of converting Town Council's lights to dimmable LED lights and associated energy savings.

The Clerk presented the background to this project which would aim to replace all non LED lights in the Town with dimmable LED lights that would dramatically reduce energy costs and maintenance costs which could then be ringfenced in the reserves for future maintenance of the lights. It was reported that the dimmable lights would reduce in brightness by 25% from 8pm and by a further 25% at midnight before working at full capacity at 6am. The cost of the work was considered and a discussion took place on the options for funding a project of this nature.

Resolved:- to recommend that prior to the matter being discussed by the Town Council the Clerk contacts the internal auditor to discuss the options regarding the issuing of the contract in relation to financial regulations.

Further Resolved:- That the Clerk seeks the opinion of Shropshire Council street lighting managers on the proposed lighting specification and price for the work.

8 Play Areas/ Open Spaces

a) Wheatfields – to discuss options for repair of decking on wooden walkway.

The Clerk reported that she had not received any quotes in time for the meeting to replace the decking with tarmac or to repair the decking.

Resolved:-to defer a decision until the quotes for replacing the decking and tarmacking the path had been supplied.

b) Dog Fouling – to discuss options for the prevention of dog fouling on council open spaces.

Following a discussion it was agreed that a harder hitting campaign was necessary to tackle the problem and that the humorous notices did not seem to be working. The Clerk was asked to seek the views of the dog warden on this matter to see whether it was possible to put a contact telephone number on posters where residents could report incidents of dog fouling.

Resolved:- To investigate the development of a poster campaign incorporating a design from local children.

Further Resolved:-To purchase biodegradable spray paint to alert users of the recreation ground to dog faeces.

c) Personal Training – to receive a complaint about use of Trentham Road open space for personal training.

It was reported that a boot camp is being held on a Saturday morning on the open space in Trentham Road. The Clerk reported that other councils had addressed this issue by requesting that people using public open spaces for this sort of purpose are

asked to register with the council in advance and to supply a copy of their public liability insurance.

Resolved:- That the Clerk would contact the organiser of the boot camp to request details of his usage of the space and a copy of his public liability certificate.

d) Annual Play Inspections – to consider quotes for annual inspections.

Resolved:- to award contract for the annual inspection of the play areas to Playsafety.

e) Tree Survey – It was reported that there was no update on this as the report had not yet been received.

Resolved:-to note.

f) Shropshire Council play areas maintained by Wem Town Council – to discuss future of arrangement.

Cllr Mellings raised the issue that the Town Council currently maintains 3 play areas belonging to Shropshire Council and the Town Council may want to formally request that these play areas are handed over to the Town Council. Following a discussion and in light of the current situation regarding asset transfer it was;

Resolved:- not to progress this suggestion.

Cllr Dee left the meeting at 11.25.

9 Love Lane Cemetery –

a) To discuss any future maintenance requirements – none raised.

b) Regulations - to discuss recent breaches of cemetery regulations.

It was reported that 2 letters had been sent to grave owners recently concerning breaches of cemetery rules due to artificial grass being placed on one grave and gravel around the headstone of another.

Resolved:- to support the council staff in this action.

10 Love Lane Allotments

a) For update on renewals and to set date for Spring inspection.

It was reported that renewal letters will be sent out this week and that an inspection would be needed at the end of March so that improvement notices can be sent out soon after.

Resolved:- to inspect the allotments on 30th March 2016.

Chairman.....