



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds & General Maintenance Committee of Yeovil Town Council held on 11th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ

Present: Cllrs J. Conway, P. Chandler, M. Lock, A. Pugsley, F. Purbrick, M. Roper, D. Shutler and A. Smith.

In Attendance: Sally Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk), Stephen Fox – Principle Horticultural Officer (SSDC), Ian Lock – Landscaping Team Leader (SSDC) and Rob Parr – Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC).

There were no members of the public or press present.

7.00pm - Meeting commenced.

9/166. Apologies for Absence and to Consider the Reasons Given.

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Recardo (Holiday).

Resolved: To accept the apologies and reasons given.

9/167. Declarations of Interest.

Members to declare Interests that accord with the Council's adopted Code of Conduct. This does not preclude any later declarations.

Cllr M Roper and Cllr A Pugsley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9/175 (Allotment Rent Review) due to each having one or more allotment tenancy with Yeovil Town Council.

9/168. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Committee approved the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 July 2017.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of Grounds & General Maintenance Committee held on 10th July 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9/169. Exclusion of Press and Public.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of item 9/179 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3, it is likely a motion to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of this item will be considered by the Councillors. [Public Bodies \(Admission to Meetings\) Act 1960 s3](#)

RESOLVED: that Agenda Item 9/179 is heard with the Public and Press excluded.

9/170. Play Area Update Report.

The Committee considered the report by the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer and Rob Parr added that the multi-unit platform at Grass Royal play area had now been replaced.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

9/171. Grass Royal Play Area

The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer gave an update on progress and informed the Committee that SSDC would now be able to fund the paths through the site. This would give the project a boost as there would no longer be a requirement to await a funding decision from Viridor Credits and the work could commence as soon as resources were available.

Resolved: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the Principal Horticultural Officer be thanked by the Committee for allocating funding to the paths and landscape planting.

7.10pm – *Rob Parr left the meeting.*

9/172. Allotment Maintenance Schedule.

The Committee considered the schedule and discussion took place regarding the strimming of vacant plots and management of unworked plots.

Resolved: that the report and the discussion be noted.

9/173. Management of Vacant Allotment Plots.

The Committee considered a report by the Principal Horticultural Officer and it was agreed that there needed to be a comparison made with existing costs. It was also noted that a service level agreement between Yeovil Town Council and South Somerset District Council would be adopted.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

9/174. Open Spaces Update Report.

The Committee considered the report circulated by the Principal Horticultural Officer and explained that some of the results were due to the optimum growing conditions for grass over the summer period.

Steve Fox added that he was seeking approval from members to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding which would require some contribution from the local authorities in support of the initiative. It was also reported that a local sponsor may have been found to support work in reinstating the fountain.

Resolved: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that a proposal for redevelopment of Sidney Gardens be brought to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance meeting.

8.11pm – *Steve Fox left the meeting.*

8.12pm – *Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, Cllr M Roper and Cllr A Pugsley left the meeting during consideration of the next agenda item and took no part in the discussion or voting. Cllr D Shutler took the chair for the duration of this item.*

9/175. Allotment Rent Review.

The Committee considered the report by the Town Clerk and discussion took place regarding the potential options.

Resolved: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that a recommendation be made to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee that an increase of 3p per square metre be made in financial year 2019/20.

8.22pm – *Cllr M Roper and Cllr A Pugsley returned to the meeting and Cllr M Roper resumed the chair.*

9/176. Allotment Tenants Working Group Minutes.

The Committee considered the minutes of the Allotment Tenants Working Group held on 18th July 2017.

Resolved: (1) that the Minutes from the Allotment Tenants Working Group be noted; (2) that it be recommended that the management and promotion of allotments be reviewed at the appropriate time; and (3) that a tour of the allotment sites be arranged.

8.45pm – *Cllr J Conway left the meeting.*

9/177. Request for Dog Bin- Welbeck Road.

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

9/178. Financial Statement – June/July 2017.

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 June to 31 July 2017.

Resolved: that the Financial Statement be noted.

Public Comment. There were no members of the public present.

The Committee passed a resolution (see item 9/169 to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

9/179. Rustywell Allotment Site (Commercial in Confidence).

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a verbal update.

Resolved: (1) that the update be noted; and (2) that the potential requirement to use Standing Order 51 be acknowledged.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Signed: (Chairman) Date: