

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **GROUND AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 10 March 2014**

(7:00pm – 7:35pm)

Present:

Dave Dollard – Chairman
Phil Chandler
John Hann
Andrew Kendall
Mike Lock
Manny Roper
Darren Shutler
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Steve Fox – Principal Horticultural Officer (SSDC)
Rob Parr – Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC)
Sally Freemantle – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public.

8/226 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/227 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Bailey, Peter Brock, Kris Castle and Jon Trevett.

8/228 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8/229 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

8/230 **OPEN SPACES**

The Principal Horticultural Officer reported that despite the terrible weather the open spaces held up very well. He informed the Committee that there had been a couple of incidences of tree damage, but that the tree risk programme had been very effective at identifying and reducing risk of falling trees and branches.

It was mentioned that the grass verges and path/cycle ways along Lysander Road were littered with twigs and natural debris. Steve Fox stated that he would request the mini sweeper be sent out to tidy up the tarmaced area and that the grass would be cleared with the first grass cut which was due to take place soon.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/231 **PLAY AREAS**

The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer explained that there had been no big issues of vandalism and no major repairs required. Due to the inclement weather over the past couple of months it was accepted that the play areas had not seen a great deal of use, but children had ventured out in the warmer, brighter weather during the weekend immediately prior to the meeting and it was commented that Yew Tree Park, Ninesprings and Preston Park play areas had all been very busy.

The Steering Group was congratulated for the excellent work at Preston Park.

RESOLVED

that the play area update be noted.

8/232 **SUMMERHOUSE VIEW PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the report regarding Summerhouse View Play Area and Members were pleased to hear that the funding had been secured to move forward with the project.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that that the £2,149 saving in the labour budget be allocated towards the Summerhouse View Play Area upgrade and that both this underspend and the previous planned underspends be carried forward into 2014/15; and
- (3) that the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer be asked to set up a Steering Group meeting and that the following Councillors from this Committee be part of that group:

Dave Dollard, John Hann, Mike Lock, Andrew Kendall, Manny Roper, Alan Smith.

8/233 **HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report by the Town Clerk (agenda item 8 refers) and the supplementary report by the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer. Members were pleased that the funding bids had been successful and that this activity programme was going ahead, noting that this meant that all the Wards in Yeovil would benefit from a play scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer make the necessary arrangements for the additional Holiday Activity Scheme to be delivered as proposed over the coming year.

8/234 **ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

The Committee considered the Allotment Maintenance schedule and report by the Streetscene Co-ordinator.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/235 **ALLOTMENT TENANT WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 3 March 2014. It was noted that the introduction of a small charge to use the Council Chamber in the Town House had been discussed and the Chairman informed the Committee that since that meeting the Town Clerk had received a letter from the Secretary of the Allotment Tenants Working Group relating to this matter to which he had responded following consultation with the Chairman of the Grounds and General Maintenance and the Policy Resources and Finance Committees.

With regard to the lock at Larkhill allotment site, the Assistant Town Clerk explained that this had been checked and been in working order so further communication with the Tenant Representative was required to find out what was wrong.

With regard to the parking at Hillcrest allotment site, the Assistant Town Clerk was asked to write to Yarlinton Housing Group to ascertain why the parking restrictions had been introduced.

Thanks had been passed on to the Maintenance Operative for his work to the gravel paths at Elizabeth Flats allotment site.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/236 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 December 2013 to 31 January 2014 (agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman

SF
17/3/13