

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 **Wednesday 14 May 2014**

(7:00pm – 7:35pm)

Present:

Dave Dollard – Chairman
John Hann
Andrew Kendall
Mike Lock
Wes Read
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Tony Lock – East Ward Member
Steve Fox – Principal Horticultural Officer (SSDC)
Sally Freemantle – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public.

8/239 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/240 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Phil Chandler and Rob Parr (Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer, SSDC).

8/241 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8/242 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

8/243 ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The Committee considered the Allotment Maintenance schedule (agenda item 5 refers).

RESOLVED

that the work carried out so far be noted.

8/244 **OPEN SPACES**

The Principal Horticultural Officer informed the Committee that the inspections of the open spaces had highlighted only a few minor issues regarding work required to the boundary (for example brambles growing in and around fences) and sweeping of paths. He explained that there had also been some storm damage, but the overall fail rate was only 2%. The other inspection results were 80% good pass and 18% fair pass.

Some discussion took place regarding fallen trees which had been left on highway land following the winter storms. The trees had been made safe and cut into a woodpile but were becoming an eyesore. Steve Fox explained that this would be initially dealt with by the Highways Authority contacting the owner. An issue was also raised regarding an overgrown area near Dodham Brook which was becoming a collection point for litter and Steve Fox assured the Committee he would arrange for this matter to be investigated.

With regard to the Winter Enhancements, it was explained that the work had been carried forward to coincide with a larger tarmacing job which would take place to repair and install footpaths in some of the open spaces. Steve Fox pointed out that the amount of tarmac required for the agreed Winter Enhancements (wear pads at entrances to three parks and a pram/pushchair hard-standing area at Monks Dale play area) was not sufficient for a complete order of tarmac to be placed. Combining the tasks would mean that a whole lorry load of tarmac would be required and used up, therefore making both projects feasible and best value.

RESOLVED

that the open spaces update be noted.

8/245 **PLAY AREA REPAIRS AND SUMMERHOUSE VIEW PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the report by the Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (agenda item 7 refers) and discussion took place regarding the format for the initial consultation exercise. It was agreed that the Ward Members on the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee would be informed of the consultation process with a view to getting involved.

RESOLVED

that the play area update be noted.

8/246 **MILFORD PARK – OUTDOOR GYM**

A representative from South Somerset District Council was not available for the meeting, however the Chairman stated that the funding from Yeovil Town Council had been agreed in principle and information on further developments would be brought to the Committee as soon as it was forthcoming.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/247 **BEST VALUE**

The Committee considered the report by the Town Clerk (agenda item 9 refers) and it was

RESOLVED

(1) that this year's achievements in relation to the lettings of allotments be noted, and the target of exceeding next year's lettings at an 80% occupancy rate be set; and

(2) that the outcome of the planned customer satisfaction survey of play areas be awaited.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/248 **ALLOTMENT TENANT WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 28 April 2014 and the Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that she would be contacting the relevant water board with regard to re-instatement of the surface along the access road to St George's allotment site.

With regard to the shuttering along the pathway at Elizabeth Flats allotment site, the Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that the repair was in hand.

The Committee noted that the appointment of a representative to attend the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee meetings as a non-voting member of the Committee was awaited.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/249 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 February to 31 March 2014 (agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman