



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds & General Maintenance Committee of Yeovil Town Council held on 11th January 2021 at 7.00pm held by video-conferencing using Zoom meeting software.

Present: Cllrs A Kendall (Chairman); G Hunting; P Lock; D Recardo; A Soughton; Royston Spinner, Helen Stonier (until 7.50pm) and Mr M Roper (co-opted non-voting) (from 7.26pm).

Also Present: Cllrs T Lock (Yeovil Lyde Ward) and A Richards (Wyndham Hill Ward).

In Attendance: Amanda Card (Town Clerk); Sally Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk); Steve Barnes (Locality Team Leader, SSDC) and Terena Isaacs (Locality Officer).

Public Comment. There were four members of the public and one member of the press present.

Thomas Freke introduced himself as a local independent playground provider and offered his advice on the report for the proposed skate park at Yew Tree Park.

7.05pm - Meeting commenced.

10/99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs O Darling-Finan (working) and S Lowery (conflicting engagement). Apologies were also received from Nathan Turnbull (Locality Officer, SSDC), due to his redeployment to Covid vaccination facilities.

10/100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

There were no declarations of interest at this stage (however Cllr D Recardo later declared a Personal interest in item 10/108 due to his allotment tenancy with the Town Council.)

10/101 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2020.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2020 be signed as a correct record at the next appropriate opportunity.

10/102 SKATE PARK CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Committee considered the report by the Locality Officer (SSDC). Steve Barnes, Locality Team Leader (SSDC) explained that he would be taking the project forward as Rob Parr had left the authority since writing the report. Steve added that many of his team had been redeployed to assist in the Covid vaccination programme, therefore timescales for projects would be impacted.

The proposals set out in the report for the new skate park at Yew Tree Park were considered and Steve explained that the costs were indicative at this stage. He added that the aim was to provide a good quality facility at best value which was appropriate for the requirements of the area.

It was agreed to form a Working Group to take the project forward but understood that the commencement may be delayed due to Covid and the vaccination programme.

RESOLVED: 1) that the report be noted; 2) that a Working Group be formed to carry the project forward at an appropriate time; 3) that the Working Group include Cllrs A Kendall, P Lock, D Recardo and A Soughton; and 4) that consideration of finance for the proposed new skate park be deferred until more information is available from the Working Group.

7.26pm – Mr M Roper joined the meeting.

10/103 PLAY AREA REPAIRS REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Locality Team Leader and Locality Officers (SSDC). The Locality Team Leader summarised the Play Area Repairs aspect of the report and the Terena Isaacs (Locality Officer, SSDC) explained how the team had adjusted the Schools Out programme in response to the restrictions of the pandemic.

RESOLVED: 1) that the report be noted; and 2) that the financial implications to continue with Play Area Repairs (£15,850), the Schools Out programme (£9,080) and contribution towards the Locality Officer (£12,440) for 2021/22 be noted (included in 2021/22 budget).

7.38pm – the Locality Officer left the meeting and did not return.

10/104 ST JOHNS PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered the report and proposed designs for the upgrade of St Johns Park play area.

RESOLVED: 1) that the report be noted; and 2) that the plans and proposals be agreed and the contribution of £10,000 from Yeovil Town Council to the total project cost of £20,000 be approved.

10/105 REQUEST FOR PLAY AREA/ENVIRONMENT AT ARNEWOODS GARDENS PARK

The Committee resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

William Pearse addressed the Committee with a suggestion that the recreation area at Arnewoods Gardens Park (Turners Barn Lane recreation area) be improved due to the number of young families in the area using the facility.

The Deputy Town Clerk read out two other emails from residents local to the park supporting the suggestion. She added that the rolling programme of Play Area Upgrades had included £10,000 for 2021/22 and it was indicated in the programme that Turners Barn Lane play area would be considered for an upgrade during the 2021/22 financial year.

The Locality Team Leader explained that some outline designs for the area had already been started by the Specialist and Operational Management, Horticulture (SSDC) and agreed that the area could be improved from a play perspective.

The Committee resolved to re-instate Standing Orders

It was agreed to set up a Working Group to take this project forward from May. In the interim, Officers and Cllr A Soughton would start preparatory work on the project.

RESOLVED: 1) that the suggestion be noted; 2) that a Working Group be formed in May to carry the project forward at an appropriate time; 3) that initial preparations be made by Officers and Cllr A Soughton.

7.50pm – Cllr H Stonier left the meeting and did not return.

10/106 REPLACEMENT BINS AT SUNNINGDALE DOORSTEP GREEN

The Committee considered the photographs of the existing rubbish bins at Sunningdale Doorstep Green and it was reported that the dog waste bins also required replacing. The Committee considered the costings to replace the dog waste and rubbish bins at Sunningdale Doorstep Green.

RESOLVED: 1) that the report and costings be noted; and 2) that it be agreed to replace the dog waste bins and rubbish bins in accordance with the proposed costings by SSDC.

8.02pm – Mr Pearse left the meeting and did not return.

8.03pm – the Locality Team Leader left the meeting and did not return.

10/107 REQUEST TO SITE A COMPOSTING TOILET AT NEWTWON ALLOTMENT SITE

The Committee resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Faye Shorley from Mind and project lead for the Vanessa Project at Newtown Allotment site addressed the Committee with a request to site a composting toilet on the plot which was rented by Mind on behalf of the Vanessa Project. Ms Shorley explained the importance of the group continuing but found that toilet facilities were an obstacle because halls were closed due to the pandemic.

The Committee resolved to re-instate Standing Orders

The Committee considered the request and were supportive of the concept but stated that the installation, maintenance, monitoring and removal must be done by Mind and that should the Vanessa Project/Mind cease the allotment tenancy, the toilet be removed and the area made good.

RESOLVED: 1) that the request be noted; and 2) that the siting of a composting toilet on the Vanessa Project/Mind's allotment plot be agreed subject to the installation, maintenance, monitoring and removal of the facility being carried out by Mind and that should the Vanessa Project/Mind cease the allotment tenancy, the toilet and associated structure be removed and the area made good.

10/108 REQUEST FOR SKIPS FOR WASTE THAT WILL NOT COMPOST IN LIGHT OF THE "NO BONFIRE" RULE

Cllr D Recardo declared a Personal interest in this agenda item due to his allotment tenancy with the Town Council.

The Committee considered the request and it was agreed to take no further action. It was stated that one of the reasons it was decided to disallow bonfires was due to the Council's commitment to improving carbon footprint.

RESOLVED: 1) that the request be noted; and 2) that no further action be taken.

10/109 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st October to 30th November 2020.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st October to 30th November 2020. be approved.

Public Comment. D Potten tried to speak, however he could not be heard due to technical issues so the Deputy Town Clerk stated that she would contact him.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed: (Chairman) Date: