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Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd August 2021

PRESENT: Councillor C Goodhind (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor C Forgacs (Vice-Chair)
Councillor G Cooke
Councillor J Crundell
Councillor S Crundell
Councillor C Houghton
Councillor J Oatley
Councillor T Price

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P Aves
Councillor J Hubbard
Jack Raisey

OFFICERS: Patsy Clover Assistant to the Town Clerk
Christine Hunter Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three members of the public and one member of the press were present.

Dr Ian Cardy asked:

- what were the Town Council's policies regarding global warming and how would CO2 emissions be reduced in land managed and properties owned by the Town Council?
- what were the Town Council's policy on increasing bio-diversity on land owned and managed by the Town Council?
- what is the Town Council's policy in relating to the "closed" church yard and have there been any changes?

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, replied that a written response to these questions would be forwarded to Dr Cardy.

21/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Lewis.

22/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23/21 Minutes

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting held on 21 June 2021, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind.

24/21 Presentation from Jack Raisey on the Art Sculpture for King George V Park

Jack Raisey presented the Committee with a scale model and an update on the art work sculpture. A meeting with the structural engineer was scheduled for later this month, after which more accurate costs and a timescale for implementation would be available. Costs may exceed the original estimate of £4,000. The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, suggested investigating sponsorship towards the additional cost of the sculpture.

It was proposed by Councillor Forgacs, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Community Development Officer be asked to work with Jack Raisey to explore sponsorship funding opportunities for the art work project.

25/21 King George V Playing Field

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to move the agenda item 5.3, "Hiring of parks/skate park to businesses and voluntary groups" to agenda item 5 on the agenda.

Standing Orders were suspended and re-instated at various times during the meeting to allow public participation at the relevant stage of the meeting.

.1 Hiring of parks/ skate park to businesses and voluntary groups

The report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk was noted.

Adrienne Westbrook confirmed that Wiltshire Council charged a £30 admin fee for park hire and requested a Melksham Town Council parks' booking form be instated.

The Committee considered whether voluntary groups and businesses should be charged if they wished to hire parks in the town, what charges and terms should be applied, and the administrative costs involved.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor S Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Assistant to the Town Clerk be asked to draft a policy regarding hiring the Melksham town parks, to be reviewed at the next Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting to be held on 11 October 2021.

.2 Request to Use King George V Playing Field for Dog Training Classes

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor J Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the request to hold dog training classes in the King George V Playing Fields.

.3 Request to Use King George V Playing Field for a Pride event

This item was removed from the Agenda.

26/21 Dogs Recreation Area

The use of sterile trees in this area of the park, as part of flood mitigation, was suggested.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Price and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that responsibility be delegated to the Amenities Manager to implement a dog recreational area for dogs off lead in the old children's play area and paddling pool space to the south of the park by:

- making good the existing fencing.
- installing additional dog waste bins.
- exploring a viable solution for the provision of individual dog poo bag dispensers.
- installing benches and signs.
- choosing and installing appropriate trees for the flood area to improve drainage.

27/21 Installation of Bollards and Fencing

The Assistant to the Town Clerk confirmed that the bollard near the adventure centre is in place, and that the Amenities Manager is aware that access is required for large vehicles, and therefore is considering drop down-bollards.

It was proposed by Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to install low level fencing and drop down bollards to restrict unauthorised access to King George V Park, being mindful not to restrict access to large vehicles.

28/21 Public Toilets

.1 Market Place Toilets

The report of the Amenities Manager was noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Forgacs and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to:

- a) hold a consultation with members of the public, Melksham Without Parish Council, those running the night-time economy in Melksham to provide evidence of usage of the Market Place toilets between 7.00 pm and midnight.
- b) report the findings to the Asset Management and Amenities Committee at the meeting to be held on 11 October 2021 for a decision on closing the Market Place toilets at 7.00 pm.
- c) ask local contractors to tender for cleaning the toilets.

.2 Bath Road Toilets

The Assistant to the Town Clerk confirmed that opening the toilet block in Bath Road had been delayed. As a temporary measure it was suggested that the Portaloo toilets in King George V Park could be moved to the Bath Road toilet site. The Portaloo's would be secured to the railings to mitigate vandalism.

It was proposed by Councillor Forgacs, seconded by Councillor Cook and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to move the Portaloo toilets from the King George V Park to the Bath Road toilet site, ensuring they are secured to the railings.

29/21 Community Use of the Phone Boxes at Littlejohn Avenue and Spa Road

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, confirmed that only one response was received.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Business Administration Apprentice be asked to:

- contact Wiltshire Museum to accept their offer of use of one of the two phone boxes, in the short term.
- investigate the feasibility of the phone boxes being Wi-fi hot spots.
- publicise the availability of the phone boxes, including if possible their availability as Wi-fi hot spots, in order to provide a longer term solution.
- investigate using the two phone boxes as outpost hubs for the Town Council.
- report back findings/suggestions for use of the phone boxes to the next Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting scheduled for 11 October 2021.

30/21 Garden Sharing Scheme

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor J Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Community Development Officer be asked to provide an explanation of the scheme, and that the item be forwarded for consideration at the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 9 August 2021.

31/21 Parks Working Group

The Notes of the Parks Working Group were received.

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference adopted by the Parks Working Group would be forwarded for approval at the Full Council meeting to be held on 27 September 2021.

Meeting Closed at: 9.15 pm

Signed:

Dated:

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