

MINUTES

At a meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee held on MS TEAMS Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Bazan (In the Chair), Blackmore, Brice, Bryant, Fuller, King, Kirk, Oldrieve and Palmen.
Officers: C Lyall (Head of Cultural & Neighbourhoods), Mr C Maddox (Neighbourhoods Officer) and Mrs A Quick (Minutes)
In attendance:
Public: 1 Press: 2

997 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to accept apologies with reasons from Cllr Drewett (Cllr Bazan substituted as Chair).

998 MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2020.**
b) There were no questions arising from those minutes.

999 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1000 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chair's Announcements.

1001 OPEN FORUM

Mr Jubbie raised a question about the proposal regarding anti-social behaviour in the park; Could it include littering, fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling? When by-laws were written we were a district council therefore wouldn't have authority to issue fixed penalty notices. Salisbury City Council have to use Hampshire Council to issue Fixed Penalty Notices as they don't have authority themselves. Mr Jubbie will forward the relevant information he has obtained to Carl Maddox.

Cllr Bryant confirmed that the alcohol exclusion zone has expired within the park. Prosecution is dealt with by WC but to take action a ticket would be raised by the police. This is passed to WC to conduct the fine but no fines have been issued so it is very ineffective. We need to look at the no drinking zone as a body.

Cllr Kirk raised issue of an enforcement firm for tackling anti-social behaviour in July 2018 but was advised there was not enough business to justify a private contractor to do this. Cllr Palmen suggested this is discussed at the appropriate agenda item.

1002 THE HEAD OF CULTURAL & NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICES REPORT

The committee considered the Head of Cultural & Neighbourhoods Services report, a copy of which had been previously circulated with the Agenda.

1. **Staff** - Cllr Oldrieve asked about staffing to cover the increasing workload. Clare responded that the flexibility of the grounds operative would allow cover of work. Cllr Kirk asked if we can tender out contracts to allow possibility of better value services? Cllr Oldrieve agrees that there are considerable savings to be made and would like this to be an open discussion. Carl Maddox assured Cllrs that when contracts go out they will be tendered. Cllr King asked if we just have to wait to see what WC give us? Clare stated that the Town Clerk has tried to negotiate but with Covid uncertainty it is still unknown what we can expect to receive. Cllr Kirk mentioned he has spoken to Ide Verde and the Cabinet and was advised we look at what

other councils have done, particularly Pewsey. WC are not willing to disclose figures at this stage. Cllr Fuller highlighted that TTC haven't stated what we want to take on. We need to calculate costs of services but we are doubtful how we are going to progress all the services which WC want us to take on. In the future we should be conducting public consultation to determine whether the residents want to take on these costs.

2. Town Park

2.2 Trowbridge Bowls Club – Leisure Services have taken over the contract with the Bowls Club which will be re-written. They would like our dept to take on cutting grass of the club and will manage everything else themselves. Cllr King asked if they are happy to take on cost of PAT Testing in the building? C.Maddox stated they are not happy with this which is why we are getting the contract written carefully.

2.3 Climate Emergency - Cllr Oldrieve thank the team for excellent planting and looking forward to next year.

2.4 Community Garden - A verbal update was given by C. Maddox on the shed which will be going into the school next week. The Weedripper will be out in locations soon but Beat the Street starts tomorrow requiring box cleaning by the team. The main stream in Drynham will need to be done manually. Cllr King asked about Innox pathway and surrounding areas. Carl confirmed there is a meeting at 9am on Thursday morning which Cllr Palment will attend, Cllr King will join them at 11am.

3. **Play Areas** - Cllr Kirk asked about the planned schedule of the road sweeper and queried the vandalism in Seymour area. C.Maddox confirmed the Ministry of Play repaired the area free of charge during lockdown. The road sweeper is on a schedule but is off until Thursday as its water pipe is cracked which needs to be fixed. The problem with the vandalised play areas is that the safety surface required is not particularly robust. C. Maddox gave an update on Parsonage Road as we need to obtain another 3 quotes for the play area as the money needs to be spent in the next 6 months. Cllr Odrieve asked if residents are happy with what has been proposed? C. Maddox confirmed yes, now we have Section 106 money the residents will get what they originally asked for. An overview was given on the other play areas. Cllr Oldrieve asked about Hulbert Close and C. Maddox confirmed that only some small items will be put into Hulbert, remaining will go into Painters Mead.

8.1 **Grounds Maintenance Contract and Additional Play Areas** – WC has extended the Ide Verde contract until 2022 which means we need to look at our grounds maintenance until 2022. C. Maddox will look at this urgently.

1003 COMMEMORATIVE TREE FOR COVID-19

To consider the following proposal by Cllr Oldrieve that a commemorative tree should be planted in the Park to remember those who died due to Covid -19 and those unsung heroes who provided a fabulous community response. A proposed location and costings to be provided by C. Maddox.

A date for the tree planting is to be agreed with the Mayor.

The inscription for the plaque was discussed and it was agreed to keep with the original wording;

Covid-19 pandemic: This tree is dedicated to the people of Trowbridge, remembering those who died and the health workers and unknown helpers who through their acts of kindness helped others to survive. Autumn 2020.

All Councillors voted in favour.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

1004 REMOVAL OF PARK BENCHES

To note enquiries regarding removal of benches is referred to Leisure & Information Services.

1005 MOTION 2008271031 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE TOWN PARK

To consider a motion proposed by Councillor Bryant (delegated to Neighbourhood Services Committee from Full Council).

Cllr Bryant highlighted this is not a recent issue but we need to instil some confidence to the public by getting WC to take some action or to take this on ourselves. It needs to be determined whether we employ a PCO or a Park Warden. Cllr King agreed a PCO would be favourable. Cllr Piazza stated the response by the public on social media was positive but 1 person wouldn't be able to cover the area 24/7 so the cost of this would need to be established. Also, CCTV could potentially be an option. Cllr Fuller stated the public order protection has lapsed. We were assured that the police could take action where there is unsociable behaviour so Cllr Fuller has written to Richard Clewer and is waiting for a response regarding how to address the problem. The Town Clerk needs to confirm what legal authority we need to enforce this. A PCSO would need to be under police control so maybe we need to re-engage the police commissioner and investigate if they can help us. Maybe the police could patrol the park on their routes daily. Cllr Brice agreed that this does depend on policing the park properly. P. Jubbie was informed by WC that this is not a priority for them. Cllr Palmen asked whether we could have a cost breakdown of hiring a person 9-5 or CCTV. C. Maddox stated that anyone recruited would need conflict training to deal with dangerous situations. C.Maddox & C.Lyall visited Salisbury and it was evident that a certain number of fines had to be issued in order to cover costs of monitoring the area by a private company but only 50% of those fines will be paid. The council pay the cost if it goes to court and usually the case would get thrown out. Cllr Kirk suggested that a private company might be too keen to issue fines and one individual couldn't cover all the issues. Cllr Bryant would be happy to widen the remit of the motion, looking at all options. We need to get a stance from WC regarding what they are willing to do about this. Cllr Fuller said the police have stated they would address antisocial behaviour but we need to look at it to make the park a safer place. Cllr Kirk asked for the findings of the previous investigation regarding Salisbury to be circulated to members from the previous enquiries on this. Cllr King suggested a working party to look at this thoroughly with all the relevant information. A Working Party was established to be Cllr King, Cllr Piazza & Cllr Hoar. Cllr Palmen to speak to Cllr Hoar regarding his participation in this working party.

Cllr Bryant agreed on an amendment to the motion, seconded by Cllr King;

AMENDED MOTION:

That Neighbourhood Services Committee has a working party set up to explore all options to tackle antisocial behaviour within the vicinity of the town park.

Motion was **CARRIED**.

1006 MOTION 2009011312 WESSEX WATER REFILL POINT

To note a motion proposed by Cllrs Piazza and Bazan (delegated to Neighbourhood Services Committee from Full Council).

Cllr Oldrieve asked if Cllr Hoar could get the minutes from his meeting to this committee.

MOTION:

That Trowbridge Town Council applies for a Wessex Water refill point.

TOWN CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Trowbridge Town Council notes that it is already progressing the provision of a Wessex Water refill point.

1007 CATG (Report Item 6.3)

Cllr King asked for an update on SID. C.Lyall highlighted that a SID has been purchased & C.Maddox will speak to the Town Clerk to see if we can get this put up in the next couple of weeks.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve CATG match-funding allocations detailed above and totalling £5,708.33.

Motion was **CARRIED**

1008 QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Report Item 10.1)

a) **RESOLVED** to approve the 1st Qtr accounts, copies of which had previously been circulated with the agenda.

1009 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a) **NOTED** the next meeting to be held on 15th December 2020 at 7.00pm (Venue MS TEAMS)

1010 MEDIA RELEASE

Wessex Water Refill Point

CATG

MyWilts App (Report Item 6.2)

Free of charge bins offered by Leaf Environmental – a thank you message to the company.

The meeting closed at 20.40 hrs.

Signature..... Dated.....