

### ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

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# **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee Held on Monday, 20 July 2015 at 5.30pm in the Town Hall

**Present:** 

Cllr S Taylor – presiding

Cllr T Crouch Cllr G Ellis Cllr T Taylor

Cllr J Taylor

In attendance – Gina Lopes – Clerk to Attleborough Town Council

### 12.15) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as follows:-

Cllr T Perkins - work
Cllr A Heginbotham - work

#### 13.15) Declarations of Interest

- a) To receive and consider declarations of interest None received
- b) To receive and consider any requests for dispensation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest None received

#### 14.15) Public Participation

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public to speak – No comments received

# 15.15) Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2015

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28 May 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed the minutes

#### **16.15) Environmental Matters**

a) New litter bins - Chapel Road, Shepherd Way and replacements for Springfields/London Road and bus shelter – After discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the bin by the bus shelter should be replaced immediately using the bin in stock and the other bins replaced once new bins are purchased. The Clerk to purchase in multiples if this offered a cheaper price

**b) New Picnic Benches** - Queens square, and Recreation Ground – The installation of picnic benches in Queen's Square and on the Recreation Ground was discussed and a concern was raised that benches may cause obstruction in the Square when

used for events such as the Christmas Carnival. The Clerk to obtain prices for vandal resistant picnic benches made from recyclable material and report to members

- c) Sensory Garden The Garden was discussed and it was felt that the area needed upgrading with new paths, raised beds and sensory equipment, possibly to include some play equipment and a solar-powered water feature. Funding and the possibility of using S106 monies or provision by a developer was also considered. The Clerk to seek prices of suitable sensory items and play equipment and report back to members
- **d) Tree Stump in Queen's Square** Consideration was given to a suitable carving for the tree stump in the Square and whether it could be incorporated into the Jubilee Project, perhaps by creating a cider press sculpture. The Clerk should investigate prices and carved designs for further consideration
- e) Allotment rental The requests from allotment tenants to change the dates of the tenancy agreements was discussed and the length of the waiting list for plots was noted. On the motion of Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Crouch, it was RESOLVED to leave the current allotment agreement unchanged and continue with the annual renewal date as June
- f) Replacement brush cutter The three quotes for the brush cutter were discussed and it was also queried if the current Brushcutter could be repaired and its age. The Clerk advised that there was a duty of care to provide employees with fully functioning equipment and highlighted that equipment was in constant use by the grounds men. On the motion of Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr S Taylor, it was RESOLVED to approve the quote from Thurlow Nunn and purchase a Stihl FS130 brushcutter for £440 and also to repair the existing Brushcutter if possible
- **g)** Risk assessments The Clerk advised that is was a legal requirement to carry out risk assessments on all the Council's areas and this task was outstanding and needed urgent attention.

On the motion of Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr S Taylor, it was

**RESOLVED** to instruct Mr Greengrass to carry out risk assessments on all the Council's open spaces asap and for the Groundsman to attend when he was on site

h) Request for hedge trimming at property in Queen's Road – The Clerk reported that a resident had requested that the hedge along his boundary and the cemetery be trimmed back for ease of access within his garden area. Previous correspondence was considered and the matter discussed.

On the motion of Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr Ellis, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the resident and refer to the letter sent in 2009 and reiterate that the action taken was a "one-off" gesture and not provided for other residents, therefore, the Council cannot be seen to favour him and would not be trimming the hedge within his boundary

# 17.15) Planting

- **a) Autumn Tree Planting** The planting of additional native trees was discussed and the Clerk was requested to seek advice from the Tree Surgeon
- **b) Native Hedge** the planting of a new hedge to separate the football pitches from dog walking areas was discussed and using hawthorn was suggested. Cllr Crouch will obtain prices from the supplier and report to members. It was also noted that the contractor had not yet carried out the annual hedge-trimming and that the Clerk should request a copy of his current insurance certificate and a risk assessment for the work

c) Funds for planting re Tour of Britain – Noted that the previously allocated funds of £400 had not been used as the plants for this event had been donated. Cllr S Taylor also requested that the Clerk post a notice expressing thanks to those that had donated towards Attleborough in Bloom

## 18.15) S106 funds

a) New Play equipment. – The use of potential S106 funds was briefly discussed and the Clerk was asked to obtain further detail of the agreements in place and clarify whether they were site specific and complete breakdown of funds available

## **19.15) Gaymers**

- a) Running Track weed spraying / white lining The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Groundsman regarding this work and believed this had now been done although there may be some restrictions because of the bee orchids located on the site. Members instructed the Clerk to ensure the track was regularly cut and lined unless the orchids were evident
- **b)** Borders cutting back on edge of field The Clerk confirmed the borders had been cut back as previously requested
- **c) Trimming round trees** The Clerk confirmed that the Groundsmen had trimmed around the trees as previously requested

### 20.15) Other matters (not on the agenda)

- **a)** Closed churchyard Cllr Ellis had spoken to Mr Carr from Norwich City College and it may be possible for students to carry out work at the churchyard to place the old tombstones. He will ask Mr Carr to contact the Clerk to discuss the project further
- **b)** Floodlights Cllr Ellis reported that the football club had asked about the old floodlights and that he was in touch with the electrician to see if the lights were usable and to trace the electric source. Suggested that if they wanted to use additional areas they would have to manage the dog issue and would not be able to play if the bee orchids were present

Meeting closed at 6.30pm