

## ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

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## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee Held on Monday, 17 October 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Hall

#### Present:

Cllr T Crouch – presiding Cllr V Dale

Cllr J Burton

Cllr T Taylor

Cllr S Taylor

In attendance – Anne Willett – Clerk's Assistant Trisha Drewery (minute taker) 1 x public

## 48.16) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as below: -Cllr G Ellis - Unwell Apologies noted from Gina Lopes (Town Clerk)

## 49.16) Declarations of Interest in items below

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

## 50.16) Public Participation

On the motion of Cllr V Dale, seconded by Cllr J Burton, it was **RESOLVED** to allow Neil Thomas, attending member of the public to speak under Agenda item 5a) as he had attended for this purpose.

# 51.16) Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19 September 2016

Noted the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19 September 2016.

#### 52.16) Trees

# a) Update - Neil Thomas, Tree Surgeon

Mr Thomas informed the Committee that he had met with Hugh Coggles from Breckland to discuss the Oak trees in the Cemetery where the proposed 2 new rows for burials were planned. Mr Thomas advised that the first row of pegs is too close to the root zone of the mature Oak trees and that the first row is removed so the second row becomes the limit for the burials. The ground plan has been adjusted in accordance following this advice. Mr Thomas advised the Committee that the work in the Cemetery would need an additional day's work on top of the one day a month he is contracted to do.

On the motion of Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr J Burton it was **RESOLVED** to approve the cost of an additional day of work by Mr Thomas in the Cemetery. Discussion took place regarding benches under trees. It was agreed that the Head Groundsman will be asked to make a note of all trees where any benches are in place under them.

## **ACTION: CLERK**

Hugh Coggles recommended that the Council needed to obtain quotes for a Tree Survey and to have one done as soon as possible. Tree Surveys are only valid for one year whilst the recommended maximum time is that these should be renewed at least every 5 years.

- Mr Thomas advised that he no longer undertakes surveys.
- The survey is needed to provide a count of the tree stock and list any with TPOs. There are approximately 450 trees under the care of the Council.
- The survey would highlight a system of care similar to that of a risk management tool; with the highest priority going to those in most urgent need of care. Each company's survey presentation would be different, some being more complicated than others to understand.
- Reference could be used from the old tree survey done by Mr Thomas as a guideline for layout of quotes.
- The Survey could be broken down into 'Wards' with high traffic areas being the priority.

On the motion of Cllr T Taylor, seconded by Cllr S Taylor, it was **RESOLVED** that 3 quotes be obtained for a Tree Survey.

**ACTION: CLERK** 

## 53.16) Tractor Shed

Cllr T Couch state that the quote provided by A.C. Bacon Engineering for the cost of £44,430.00 was expensive and deferred this Agenda item pending the receipt of other quotes.

## **54.16) Other Environmental Matters**

a) Attleborough Town Carnival Committee 2017 dates -

Sam Aghabi, Chair of the Attleborough Town Carnival Committee has written to the ATC to request permission to use the Recreation Ground Wednesday 12 July 2017 to Tuesday 18 July 2017 inclusive. No objections were given and the date has been noted for booking. The Clerk will reply to Mr Aghabi to confirm the booking.

**ACTION: CLERK** 

b) Fence Quotation - David J Macrow Fencing Contractors -

Following discussion regarding the suitability of the fence and that the quotation obtained from Fenland was £12,000; on the motion of Cllr S Taylor and seconded by Cllr J Burton it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £8,300; with the condition that legal requirements are adhered to regarding a minimum of 2 metres between the fence and the play equipment.

**ACTION: CLERK** 

c) Trim Trail Replacement/Repair Equipment - Quotation 26055 for an Air Walker- Cllr T Couch informed the Committee that this equipment has already been repaired by the Groundsmen, therefore, no further action is necessary.

## d) Quotation for Tractor removal repair and refit -

2 quotations were discussed and on the proposal of Cllr V Dale seconded by Cllr S Taylor it was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from G. A. Services for £400.00 plus VAT.

**ACTION: CLERK** 

- e) Plants Queens Square / Flower Tub Cllr T Couch informed the Committee that the Shrubs from the flower tubs will be used to fill in any gaps in Queens Square and any remaining plants will go to Lomond Road.
- f) Flower Bulb planting around the Town following discussion Cllr T Couch will obtain some quotes and confirm with Breckland if it is their land. Cllr S Taylor will investigate the potential for Volunteers from the Boxing Club to do the planting.

**ACTION: CLLR T CROUCH/CLLR S TAYLOR** 

# 55.16) Any Other Business

Cllr T Couch – stated that the Seesaw on Gaymer's Meadow is in need of repair again. Following discussion Cllr J Burton requested that the Council go back to Fenland and ask for a replacement as this has already been repaired once by Fenland, despite it being less than a year since purchase.

## **ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr V Dale - following uncertainty of ownership of Sensory Garden at the Environment Meeting held on the 19 September 2016; Cllr V Dale volunteered to contact Lindsay Able, the then Neighbourhood Coordinator who instigated the Garden, to confirm the exact details of ownership in preparation for the Full Council meeting due to be held on the 7 November 2016. The Asset Register should be checked to see if this land is owned by ATC. Cllr V Dale offered to contact Lindsay Able and the Clerk to check the Asset Register.

### **ACTION: CLERK/CLLR V DALE**

Cllr S Taylor – enquired who had responsibility for the Vicarage trees as she had seen a branch fall, just missing a member of the Public on a mobility scooter. Cllr J Burton requested that a letter be sent to the Reverend Jackson, St Mary's Vicarage alerting them to this near miss.

### **ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr S Taylor requested that the 2 old bins be replaced on Queens Square from the 6 new on order.

Cllr T Taylor said that she had been informed by a member of the Public that dog owners have allowed their dogs to foul on the Cemetery. The Head Groundsman is to be alerted and asked to check the Cemetery.

**ACTION: CLERK** 

## 56.16) Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21 November 2016

The meeting closed at 6.32pm