



ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee
Held on Monday, 19 September 2016 at 5.30pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr T Crouch – presiding
Cllr J Burton Cllr V Dale Cllr T Taylor
Cllr S Taylor

In attendance – Gina Lopes, Town Clerk
Anne Willett – Clerk’s Assistant (minute taker)
5 x public

37.16) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as below:-
Cllr G Ellis - unwell

38.16) 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

39.16) Public Participation

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

40.16) Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15 August 2016

Noted the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15 August 2016

41.16) Cemetery

a) **Rosedales’ correspondence** - Apologies from Andy Free were noted and Mark Hall from Rosedale Funeral Home was invited to speak. He explained the “Erratic Cycle of Grief” and how people grieve in different ways and this meant funeral directors needed to have a flexible approach. Mr Hall stated that sometimes there could be an urgent request for an interment and that ashes interments on Saturdays should be offered. The Clerk raised concern regarding any liability if an incident occurred on a Saturday as grounds staff would not be available but Mr Hall confirmed he would take full responsibility for any Ashes Interments on a Saturday and gave assurance that any of the other funeral directors would do the same. There was a lengthy discussion which included consideration of returning to the previous system of Council grounds staff providing a grave digging service. Mr Hall praised the previous standard of grave-digging provided by the Head Groundsman, Mr

Briggs, and confirmed he would be happy to return to this system. Cllr Burton asked Mr Hall's opinion on the suggestion to remove the ashes garden hedge and Mr Hall advised this was a sensitive area. Noted that there was space in new areas and not necessary to remove the hedge. The Clerk advised there had been some responses to the proposals and also a letter from Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

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

RESOLVED Ashes Interments only be offered on Saturdays from 9.00am–12.00 noon and the area to be back-filled by the undertaker

On the motion of Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Crouch, it was

RESOLVED that the Council's provision of grave-digging be progressed and the Clerk to seek advice from the Health and Safety consultant to enable Head Groundsman, Adrian Briggs, and assistant Barry Smart to perform grave-digging duties

42.16) Trees

Cllr Crouch advised that Neil Thomas, Tree Surgeon, had been unable to attend, however, he had requested a site visit be arranged with Hugh Coggles at the Recreation Ground to inspect oak trees. Mr Thomas had previously had no response from Mr Coggles and suggested that the staff log their attempts to contact him. Mr Thomas will give an estimate for work to be carried out to lime trees at entrance to church and he will send a written report to the Clerk and attend the next meeting.

Cllr S Taylor had received an enquiry from a resident concerning sycamore & oak trees behind Sainsburys, Wayland Court, and Cllr Crouch offered to investigate and confirm if these trees are on Sainsbury's land.

43.16) Football Club Request for marking of pitches

A request from the football club for pitch marking was considered and it was noted that the grounds staff felt they did not have enough working hours to perform this task and the costs were also discussed

On the motion of Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Dale, it was,

RESOLVED not to offer this service to the Football Club due to lack of staff time and also cost implications

44.16) Gaymers

a) Fence by Trim Trail – Cllr Crouch presented costs for chestnut fencing and wire netting and these were discussed and the Clerk advised that these would not comply with requirements for play areas

b) Fencing quote from Fenland Leisure - A quote for picket fencing was considered but it was suggested that the grounds staff may be able to erect a fence during the winter months to save costs. The Clerk to obtain quotes for timber for consideration

45.16) Allotment Tenancy Agreement -

a) To review and consider amendments – The current tenancy agreement (7a) was considered.

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

RESOLVED to amend the agreement clause 7a from twelve months to three months termination

46.16) Other environmental matters

a) Purchase of additional waste bins –

On the motion of Cllr Crouch, seconded by Cllr Burton, it was,

RESOLVED to purchase 6 x litter bins from Bodo for £400.00 each

b) New signs for the Public Toilets – New signs had previously been requested from Norfolk County Council Highways. Suggested moving the existing sign to the Square to make it more visible and Cllr Crouch to investigate moving existing signs and report back

c) Sensory Garden – Update – Cllr Crouch reported that Sensory Garden was not fit for purpose and would be ideal to sell as land for building and the money raised could be used for new areas. The Clerk advised that she had been told there was a covenant in place and also that the Neighbourhood Plan had identified a shortage of green open space in the town. Cllr S Taylor felt the covenant could be removed to allow the land to be sold. To be put on the agenda for the next full council meeting

d) ROSPA reports for play areas – Noted for information

e) Fenland quotes – Quote No 25355 £13,608 defer decision until information received on MUGA. Tractor climber to be welded if possible rather than replaced. On the motion from Cllr Crouch, seconded by Cllr Dale, it was

RESOLVED to approve quote No 25229 £1,587.51 & No 25815 £598.00 cross-trainer but to check price for new equipment first and replace if not much more expensive

47.16) Design concept for Play Areas

a) Quote/s from Phil Doyle, Play England – The report from Mr Doyle was discussed and to be further considered at full council meeting

b) Operational inspections – ROSPA confirmation that it is not a legal requirement to carry out 4 x play area inspections but a recommendation was discussed.

c) ROSPA Training courses for Operational inspections – Consideration was given whether the inspections should be carried out by a contractor or by the Council's staff following training. The Clerk to obtain further training quotes and to consider at next meeting

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

Public Participation Notes

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and comments received included the following:-

- S Taylor voiced her concerns regarding the Christmas lights and asked if Cllr Ellis needed any assistance, Cllr Burton responded that he would speak to Cllr Ellis