



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Full Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 9th February 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

Members Present:

Councillor R Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Austin
Councillor Brown
Councillor Francis
Councillor Hall

Councillor Proctor
Councillor Taylor
Councillor K Tippins
Councillor Todd

Officers Present:

Stephen Holley, Town Clerk

MINUTES

Public Participation

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern.

- Query why the Council was considering the expenditure of £53,000 on the two items of substantive business. It was explained that the Agenda contained a typographical error in the report on Jubilee Path – the correct figure (£2,130) had been provided in the quote appended to the report.
- Query as to the urgency of the work proposed for Jubilee Path and why the work was regarded as specialist. It was explained that a Civic Day was scheduled for Sunday 21st February 2016 and that the representatives of 20 towns and parishes in Dorset were expected to visit the town. The date was an important occasion to 'showcase' Shaftesbury so the work was considered urgent in order to be done in time. The specialist nature of the work had been attested to by a well-respected local conservationist.
- The Chairman of the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group referred to the same item. He informed the Council that, in 2002, it had commissioned a Management Plan for the St James slopes from Bournemouth University. The work in the Plan had not been carried out due to some local opposition, due to concerns about loss of privacy but that study, and subsequent work, had indicated that specialist labour and equipment was necessary. The soil on the slopes was very fertile and it

- would naturally progress to brambles and nettles if not regularly maintained. The creation of wildlife habitats from branches and other cuttings was specialist work.
- In response to a query on the location of the proposed play equipment for Barton Hill Recreation Ground, it was explained that it would not be sited immediately behind the rear wall of the Swimming Pool. However, the Council had no plan to extend the Pool by the addition of a Fitness Suite to the rear. It was also stated that the installation of free to use outdoor gym equipment would have no impact on local commercial gyms.

FC122 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Jackson due to work commitments, from Councillor Lewer due to a previous commitment, and from Councillor Perkins due to personal reasons.

FC123 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation had been received. All members were invited to declare any interests throughout the meeting if the need arose.

FC124 Barton Hill Recreation Ground

Officer Report 02EFC03 was received. The Council was requested to consider a recommendation from the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee (ROSE) for the purchase of additional recreation equipment for Barton Hill Recreation Ground. It was noted that, while the recommendation included a request that the Council seek to make use of S106 funding for part of the proposed work, the Internal Auditor had advised that the Council was holding an earmarked reserve of £30,000 for play equipment. In the light of that advice, the Council would not need to call on S106 funding. It was **RESOLVED** (a) that a contract be placed with Wicksteed Leisure Limited, for the purchase of an eight-piece Outdoor Gym and associated work for installation at the Barton Hill Recreation Ground, to the value of £25,500 plus VAT; and (b) that a contract be placed with Caloo Limited, for the purchase of a Multi-Active Wall for installation at the Barton Hill Recreation Ground, to the value of £17,500 plus VAT.

FC125 Suspension of Financial Regulations

RESOLVED that Financial Regulation 1.105 h (requirement for three quotations) be suspended to allow for the consideration of the following Item of Business, on the grounds that the work was considered urgent and that its scope required specialist contractors.

FC126 Jubilee Path

Officer Report 02EFC05 was received. The Council was requested to consider placing a contract for urgent specialist work to Jubilee Path. It was explained that the contractors who had supplied the single quote received had withdrawn. While they were still interested in the work, they felt the Council should have a longer term plan. It was **AGREED** that a new Management Plan should be prepared for the Council. The contractors would be given the opportunity to supply a quote at the appropriate time. In view of the need to tidy up the Jubilee Path in time for the

Civic Day it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to spend up to £2,000 on urgent 'tidy up' (non-specialist) work to the Jubilee Path and surrounding area leaving £6,000 for the remaining work.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed

Date

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