



## SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held on  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014** at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber.

### **Present:**

Cllr Hicks (Chair)

Cllr Tippins (Vice-chair)

Cllr Clinch

Cllr Cook

Cllr Harvey

Cllr Pritchard

### **In attendance:**

Ms Nicola Duke (Town Clerk)

Mrs Claire Commons (Committee Clerk)

Cllrs Dibben and Proctor

DCllr Jefferson

5 members of the public

### **01. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **02. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations to participate**

a) There were no declarations of interest declared.

b) No dispensation requests not previously considered had been received by the Town Clerk.

### **03. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** a recommendation to Full Council that Cllr Dibben be re-instated to the committee and as vice-chairman stating that the reasons for his removal had been found not valid. The motion fell (two votes in favour, four against)

Nominations were **PROPOSED** and **SECONDED** for Cllrs Clinch and Tippins for the position of vice-chair to the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee. The members then moved to a ballot for the two members nominated. The results were Cllr Clinch 1, Cllr Tippins 4.

Cllr Tippins was thereby appointed as vice-chair of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee until the end of the municipal year. (*Policy 0114/ROSE/03*)

### **04. Open Forum**

Mr Nigel Cook – expressed concern that the restriction of the Open Forum meant that there was less communication between members of the public and the council. He spoke regarding his request for information regarding the finances of the memorial noting that these had not been received yet. The committee clerk assured him that they were being compiled. Mr Cook referred to a conversation he had had with the investigating officer to the memorial project and asked her how much she was going to charge to which she advised him that she didn't yet know. Mr Cook expressed concern at this.

DCllr Jefferson – spoke regarding item 9 Park Walk, in support of the request to raise the crowns of the trees and in relation to item 10 Wildflower Verges, requesting liaison with the Shaftesbury Snowdrops to ensure that the plantings did not conflict.

Mr Radcliffe – spoke regarding allotments advising that the antique gate at Bray allotments had had the tops cut off, which he felt amounted to corporate vandalism. He also reported that he had had to pay to retrieve his allotment agreement and noted that the rules in the new agreement were contradictory. The chairman responded that he had been refunded immediately for the postage and received an apology, that the agreement was based on best practice as advised by the Allotment Association. He added that he understood the gate tops were removed as they were reported as a Health and Safety Hazard following an allotment inspection and that he would look into this on Mr Radcliffe's behalf. Mr Radcliffe responded that he did not want to surrender his allotment and would be coming in to pay his rent.

ACTION: CLLR HICKS

Cllr Dibben – expressed disappointment regarding his removal from committee and asked for his comments to be recorded verbatim.

*“Disappointing to hear decision on one of the past. The Mayor said he would provide me a folder and hasn't done. Decision made at Barton Hill had to be reversed otherwise would have been illegal. I was supported by the Town Clerk, I am sorry she didn't speak. I have been removed with no right of reply. We have a report from the auditor showing that 99% if not 100% not true or proven regarding the allegations. The advice sought was correct, we followed to the letter. Advice was sought from NDDC and they gave incorrect advice. It has only been since maternity leave, councillors have gone too far. Members are ignoring the auditor's advice.*

*Item 5 have plenty of updating on facts. Flaw is informing debate, members should be able to speak at beginning to inform debate. Have the committee decided, need to be able to turn around and go. Report on memorial clears council of wrong doing. I propose committee returns to its work and publicise to put memorial back in place.*

*It is clear the work of the committee was exemplary. Current proposal on Barton Hill costs, a very detailed process had been gone through.*

*Equipment for snow and ice and storage for equipment already agreed. Exchange for cutting their [Football Club] grass.*

*We have a history of making decisions on incorrect information. I propose reject GEM and return to 0413/FC/143di be enacted immediately for staff and football club.*

*That this committee pass a vote of confidence in the Town Clerk and staff for their work bringing things forward.*

*Claim material reasons for halting work on the grounds unit. A man engaged to deliver and has been paid. How can we make decisions from one costing nothing to one costing £20,000?*

*Decision at the top of the meeting is deplorable.”*

The Town Clerk advised that she would respond to the points raised by Cllr Dibben at the relevant agenda items.

Cllr Cook – spoke regarding Shaftesbury Snowdrops asking who owned Trinity Wall. Cllr Proctor responded that it was the Trinity Trust and the committee clerk agreed to investigate further to confirm.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

Cllr Cook **PROPOSED**, Cllr Tippins **SECONDED** and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to move agenda item 8 to the end of the meeting.

**05. Updates**

- a) Outdoor Gym Cllr Hicks reported that in view of the land at the Eastern Development not being ready for transfer to Shaftesbury Town Council, the existing resolution did allow for it to be placed on the eastern side of Shaftesbury and therefore he was recommending placement at Wincombe Recreation Ground. He spoke of the requirement for additional funding that was hoped to be awarded from Locality Funding. DCllr Jefferson added that he believed the money was set aside for Shaftesbury. There were no objections from the committee for the development to the project.

Cycleways. Cllr Tippins reported that CCllr Jeffery had been actively involved in pursuing the cycleway project and that Mampitts Lane and A30 routes had been identified as the priorities. It was agreed that the committee clerk would circulate the current plans by email to committee members.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

**Monument**

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an email from English Heritage advising that there would be no further action in relation to the project. She added that the working group had requested members to feed in its suggestions for locations which could include putting it back where it was originally sited. She added that the internal auditor and the investigator were content that the payments and projects were lawful. She added that as Full Council was led by the questions raised at the parish meeting to suspend Cllr Dibben from committees, it would need to be referred back to Full Council now that it had been found that the basis for those decisions was false.

Tractors. The Town Clerk reported that the tractor and attachments identified by the Grounds Team were being held by the supplier. It was recommended that this was referred to Full Council on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

- b) To agree any attendances required at meetings additional to those scheduled in the Council's calendar – there were no such attendances required.

**06. Correspondence**

- a) Members received correspondence relating to the vandalism of bins and rubbish at Barton Hill recreation ground. It was **AGREED** that a metapost and deeper concrete would provide a stronger anchor for the bins to prevent them from being upturned as the photos demonstrated. It was also **AGREED** that the route of the Town Orderly would be reassessed.

ACTION: GROUNDS TEAM

- b) Members received correspondence requesting permission for the circus to visit the town. It was **AGREED** to obtain references and respond with the Hire of Council Land protocol and bring back to the next meeting of the committee.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

**07. Budget and Precept Planning 2014/2015**

- a) The report on proposals for the revenue budget had been previously circulated. Cllr Clinch **PROPOSED**, Cllr Tippins **SECONDED** and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to

**RECOMMEND** £23,100 Open Spaces and Recreation budget for 2014/15 to the Budget Workshop

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

It was **AGREED** to provide additional detail on the Trees, Fencing and Contingency budget lines.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- b) The report on proposals for the capital budget had been previously circulated. Members were asked to consider any additional items that they would wish to see included which were duly debated and **AGREED** to include:
- Land at Coppice Street / Tesco entrance
  - Tree works below Park Walk
  - Footpath at Castle Hill (to be funded by s106 funds)

DCllr Jefferson considered that there may be National funding to support works where trees may be affecting ancient monuments and this might be able to be applied for in relation to works at Castle Hill.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

**08. Park Walk** (previously agenda item 09)

- a) Members considered the reported previously circulated by the Open Spaces Group. It was added that the report had been drawn up in consultation and agreement with the Shaftesbury Tree Group and advice had been sought from the tree officers at North Dorset District Council. It was unanimously **AGREED** to add the work to the capital programme as per the previous minute of this meeting.
- b) Members considered correspondence regarding unauthorised parking on Park Walk. It was noted that the staff were issuing warning notices to offenders and this had seen results. It was therefore **AGREED** to leave these matters in the hands of the staff.

**09. Wildflower Verges** (previously agenda item 10)

- a) Members considered the report previously circulated by the Open Spaces Group. It was confirmed that Dorset County Council were happy with the proposals. Members **AGREED** to support the Open Spaces Group in this project and extended thanks for all their efforts.

**10. Grounds Team** (previously agenda item 11)

- a) The chairman clarified that the working group relating to the Grounds Unit was to look at short to medium term improvements to the existing unit at Barton Hill and was not in relation to the resolution at GEM regarding the unit proposed to be located at Coppice Street. Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** to delegate the project of short to medium term location of the grounds unit to the staff with a report to go to Full Council on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014. (policy 0114/ROSE/10a)

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

9:03 at this point in the meeting, the Town Clerk left the room

**11. Tree Applications** (previously agenda item 08)

- a) Members considered the circulated report in relation to the following tree work application for onward submission to North Dorset District Council and observed no objections to all three listed below:

2540/CA/BH/13	5 Sally Kings Lane
2539/CA/SLS/13	23 Layton Lane
2547/CA/SLS/13	Alcester Cottage, 62 Bimport

- b) Members noted the delegated observations on the following tree work applications:

2526/CA/SLS/13	Layton House
2468/CA/SLS/13	3 Highlands
2503/CA/SLS/13	3 Ratcliffes Gardens
2507/CA/SLS/13	7 The Barton
2520/CA/SLS/13	6 Kingsman Lane
2502/CA/SLS/13	12 St James Street

- c) Members noted the Tree Preservation Orders:

TPO/510-2013	Land at St Denis Lodge
TPO/516-2013	Land at St Denis Lodge
TPO/513-2013	Land at St Rumbolds Road

The chairman thanked the committee clerk for her comprehensive tree report as it assisted in reporting past decisions and informing the committee on applications requiring observations.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:05pm.