



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 5th January 2016 commencing at 7:00pm.

Members Present:

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Hall (for part of the meeting) Councillor Taylor
Councillor R Tippins Councillor Todd

Absent:

Councillor Francis

Officers Present:

Stephen Holley, Town Clerk
Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer

In Attendance:

Five members of the public

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. The following matters were raised:

- A request for an update on railings.
- An expression of support for standardised design(s) of benches.
- An expression of interest in the draft Castle Hill Management Plan from members of the Open Spaces Group.
- A request that, when the Council considered new equipment in the Barton Hill Recreation Ground, sufficient space was allowed for the fair and outdoor events.

R65 Apologies

Received from Councillor Francis due to vacation and from Councillor Hall for late arrival.

R66 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

R67 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2015 as a correct record.

R68 Chairman's Announcements

East Green Play Area – The Chairman reported that on a delay with the installation of the play equipment. The Clerk would request a report from the relevant Officers at North Dorset District Council.

Jeanneau Close – Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group would be asked to prepare a management plan for the area. Officers requested that the Committee and Open Spaces Group bear in mind that residents had expressed their concern that the removal of too many trees and shrubs would reduce the effectiveness of this site as a noise and pollution buffer between Jeanneau Close and the adjacent industrial estate.

Cllr George Hall arrives.

Mampitts Recreation – The Chairman reported designs were being sought for recreational facilities on the Eastern Development at Mampitts Lane.

Town Railings – It was **AGREED** that the railings in the tourist prominent areas needed to be stripped and repainted in readiness for the tourist season. The Town Clerk would work with the Grounds Team to prepare a plan for the refurbishment of the town's railings.

R69 Snowdrop Festival

A verbal report was given by the founder of the festival, Pam Cruickshank. She requested that the Town Council adopted snowdrops as part of the Town ethos to plant snowdrops. It was reported that the festival was growing in popularity and the varieties of snowdrops in the Town. It was requested that the Town Council provide support in the form of time from the Grounds Team and possibly in the form of space to grow young snowdrop bulbs. It was **AGREED** that the Snowdrop Festival should prepare a proposal for the requests. Mrs Cruickshank requested the grounds team for five days across the year, Councillor Taylor supported that request. It was noted that Shaftesbury Snowdrops supported the Town Council's consideration of acquisition of a poly tunnel and that item would be considered as part of the budget setting process at the next meeting of the General Management Committee.

R70 Tree Applications

Officer Report 0116ROSE06 was received. The Committee **RESOLVED** to submit the following observations on the remaining applications to North Dorset District Council:

Reference	Address	Detail
2/2015/1844/TPTREE	Trinity Centre, Bimport, Shaftesbury SP7 8BW	G1 – Line of 17 x Lime – re-pollard T3 – Yew – Reduce canopy by 4m T4 – Conifer – Fell (please see supporting document for reasons).

Reference	Address	Detail
Committee Observation: The Committee had no objections to the works		
2/2015/1854/CATREE	7 Well Lane, Shaftesbury SP7 8LP	T1 – Bay – Crown reduction 3.5m off height and 2.5m off spread
Committee Observation: The proposed pruning is drastic for a tree of this size. It was suggested that if the owner wanted the tree to be reduced so much, that it be done in stages.		

R71 Ash Close Play Area

Officer Report 0116ROSE07 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to award the contract for provision and installation of play equipment to Wicksteed. It was **AGREED** that Councillors K Tippins, Todd and Hall would meet with the supplier and an Officer to agree the exact location of the equipment within Ash Close. *(Financial Implication - £17,999 Playground equipment and savings of £1,985 identified at minute reference R61)*

R72 Barton Hill

Report 0116ROSE08 was received. It was **AGREED** to defer decision of the equipment until the next meeting of the Committee to give sufficient time for members to consider the detail of the proposals.

R73 Skate Park

The Officer's Report 0116ROSE09 was received. It was **RESOLVED** that a specialist maintenance contract be placed. It was **AGREED** to put on hold any additional equipment to the skate park. *(Financial Implication – £325 playground inspections)*

R74 Castle Hill Management Plan

Officer Report 0116ROSE10 was received and noted. It was **AGREED** to delegate review of the management plan to the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group for comments to be reported back on 2nd February 2016.

R75 Swimming Pool

Officer report 0116ROSE11 was received, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase 'Pump up the Volume' giant inflatable from Airspace Solutions, to facilitate party bookings. *(Financial Implication – £4485 Swimming Pool Capital)*

It was **RECOMMENDED** to the General Management Committee that the Council take on the direct operation of the Swimming Pool, with effect from the 2016 season, and that appropriate provision be made in the Budget for 2016/17.

Consideration was given to an enhanced roller and it was **AGREED** to progress with the enhanced proposal for electrical roller and blanket if the funding bid was

successful. If unsuccessful, the Council would proceed to install only the previously considered blanket.

Councillor Hall reported that the solar company was interested in using the installation of panels as a case study for national and global trade publications. It was agreed to progress with local press releases immediately.

It was agreed to investigate further the energy saving options for the showers and LED lighting.

R76 Historic England – Castle Mound and St John’s Churchyard

Officer report 0116ROSE12 was received and noted. It was **AGREED** to carry out a site visit with Historic England in consultation with the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group.

R77 Allotment Polytunnel Request

Officer report 0116ROSE13 was received and it was **RESOLVED** to grant permission for a polytunnel at plot B8B at St James Allotments.

R78 Benches

Officer report 0116ROSE14 was received. It was noted that the request identified at 2.2 had been withdrawn.

The Committee **AGREED** that the standardisation of benches was desirable and requested a detailed report with recommendations for each area of the Town.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a wooden bench on the Jubilee Path, as detailed in Appendix A to the report. (*Financial Implication – Street Furniture*)

It was **AGREED** to repair and strengthen the self-closing hinges on Park Walk Rose Gardens to deter dogs from fouling.

R79 Officer Report

Officer Report 0116ROSE was received and noted.

The Chairman highlighted the following Health and Safety concerns;

- Bins being placed on paving slabs. It was **AGREED** to programme in concreting in of bins in all Town Council responsible areas, prioritisation to be given to play areas in the first instance.
- Play area surfaces and paintwork. The Chairman reported that algae on wetpour surfaces was creating a slip hazard and paintwork was in desperate need of attention.

It was requested that a programme of works be carried out to repair all play and recreation areas and reported to the next meeting of the Committee on 2nd February 2016.

The Committee noted that a vacancy for a Groundsperson had been held over, and that it had been referred to as a seasonal post. The Town Clerk explained that the Human Resources Committee had combined two former part-time posts, one of which had been seasonal. In view of a further question on the use of

overtime while the post had been held open, the Clerk offered to provide the Council with a more detailed report.

Councillor Hall commended the Chamber of Commerce for the success of the Late Night Opening and Switching on of the Lights and it was **AGREED** to write a letter of thanks to the Chamber of Commerce from the Mayor of Shaftesbury.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:10pm

Signed

Date

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