

***‘protecting and improving the quality of life***

***for all Bayston Hill residents’***

**Clerk to the Council/RFO: Emma Kay**

**Chairman: Cllr Fred Jones**

**18 November 2015**

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Monday 16 November 2015 in the Memorial Hall.**

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| **Present**: | Cllrs Clarke (Chairman), Mrs Whittall, Keel, Mrs Lewis, Parkhurst, Gordon, Gouge, Mrs Trickett, Ball and Breeze. |
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| **In attendance:** | Emma Kay – Clerk, Two representatives from Urban Recreation, Cllr Tudor – Condover Parish Council, Lucy Roberts – Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire County Council and Rawden Parslow – Central Shropshire area Library Manager. |

A73.14 **LONGMEADOW PLAY AREA –** Two representatives from Urban Recreation, the chosen contractor to undertake the improvements to the area, attended the meeting.

They explained the theory behind the proposed improvements to the play area, that it was currently disjointed, some pieces of equipment needed refitting, the bark needs replacing but that the equipment already there was in good condition.

They described the work to be done which includes: remove all equipment, move slide, new platform for slide, better surface underneath each item, move toddler swing to toddler area, repair wet pour, brighten up fence and add a small stand on roundabout.

There was some discussion about the existing equipment in the toddler area, options were discussed and it was suggested that the toddler area be improved in accordance with the current plan and developed further once some grant funding has been secured.

Questions were raised about the closing of the spring gate and whether the elephant springer repair would be included in the work which the representatives agreed to look into.

**Rawden Parslow arrived at 7.52 pm**

Cllr Parkhurst **proposed,** Cllr Clarke **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that the improvements as detailed in Urban Recreation’s full quote including the enhancement be agreed and that a further improvement of the toddler’s area be considered should additional grant funding be found.

Cllr Keel asked about an independent safety check on completion and Urban Recreation agreed they will arrange that.

Cllr Jones queried what guarantees would come with the work and the representatives explained that each separate item has a different guarantee.

The timescale was discussed, the Clerk confirmed that the notification to spend funds would go up the next day so assuming no negative feedback that they were able to start from mid December. Assuming bad weather in January it was agreed that the work would most likely be done in early February 2016.

**The two representatives from Urban Recreation left the meeting at 8.02 pm**

A74.15 **APOLOGIES –** No Apologies all in attendance.

A75.15 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST** – No declaration beyond those recorded in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Parkhurst **proposed**, Cllr Gordon **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that Agenda item A80.15 be brought forward to allow the other attendees to leave after their item.

A80.15 **FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE –** Rawden Parslow, the Library Manager from the Central Shropshire area introduced himself to the meeting. He explained his role in the discussions with the Oaklands/Glebe field Steering Group and the proposal for a joint use Community Building included in the development plan. He explained the budget pressures the Library service is currently under and described the development of partnership arrangements in several towns and villages within Shropshire in an attempt to find savings. Two are already up and running at Highley and Craven Arms with several others in the planning process at Shifnal, Broseley and Albrighton.

Based on those already being developed he stated that he saw the Parish Council as an obvious partner in the Bayston Hill Library and was at this meeting to gauge an early opinion on the suggestion that the Parish Council take on a management role of the proposed Library.

Discussions were held about the future staffing of, funding of and services provided by the Library in its new iteration. Rawden stated that some funding would be provided towards the staffing costs of the new Library and that savings would come from not having the responsibility for the building costs and any other related overheads.

Discussions were held about the use of volunteers, the possible provision of additional computers by the Parish Council, self service machines, the diversification of Libraries in recent years and the funding of the new building.

The Condover Parish Council representative queried whether the Library would be open more often in the future which Rawden confirmed may be possible in a multi-use building. A user agreement was discussed as one would need to be produced for the partnership and the involvement of Condover PC was discussed. A consultation process would also need to be undertaken prior to any decisions being made about the way ahead.

The subject of funding was discussed at length specifically for the actual building of the new Community Hub, Lucy Roberts confirmed that there had been some reassurance that the current discussion is heading towards a cost neutral build.

Cllr Parkhurst **proposed**, Cllr Breeze **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** in principle that Bayston Hill Parish Council was prepared, if required to take on some responsibility for the Library within Bayston Hill as long as there would be no loss of service.

A query was made about whether the mobile Library van would remain housed at Bayston Hill, Rawden confirmed that another location would be found for it and that the mobile service was also due to be reviewed.

Cllr Tudor undertook to take the information back to Condover Parish Council at their next meeting.

**Rawden Parslow, Lucy Roberts and Cllr Tudor left the meeting at 8.39 pm**

A76.15 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS** **AT COUNCIL MEETINGS –** There were no members of the public at the meeting.

A77.15 **MINUTES –** It was **proposed** by Cllr Jones, **seconded** by Cllr Clarke and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Monday 21 September 2015 with two minor amendments be accepted as a true record.

A78.15 **MATTERS ARISING –** The following matters arose from the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Monday 21 September 2015:

**A18.15 Longmeadow Walk Round** – All attempts to get as many councillors together to have a walk round of Longmeadow have thus far failed.

**A31.15 Youth and Community Building Water Costs –** Severn Trent Water have been in touch reference the refitting of a new water metre for the Youth & Community Building. They have monitored usage and as a result a new invoice was issued on 28 October which has credited £261.17 back to the Parish Council. Water bills for this building should now be more realistic.

**A52.15 Lythwood Changing Rooms Refresh** – Work was started on the changing rooms on Tuesday 10 November 2015, one will be done this week and the second next week so that one of the changing rooms remains usable for football teams.

Cllr Clarke confirmed that the changing rooms had been completed.

**A63.15 Parish Council Chairman’s Chain –** The Clerk has taken advice from the Town Clerk and she confirmed that the cost of links had increased and that whilst she used a different company that it would be a similar price to that quoted.

Cllr Parkhurst **proposed**, Cllr Gordon **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that the new links be purchased from Masons in town. **Action: Clerk.**

**A65.15 Planters on the Parade –** The planters have now been removed, several of the larger, hardier plants were taken by residents and a small donation was received towards the replanting next year.

Cllr Mrs Whittall queried whether the work on the sensory gardens had been completed, Cllr Clarke stated that it was due to be completed by the end of November 2015.

A discussion was held about why the Parish Council was needing to pay to have the work done when the work was in the handymen’s schedule. Cllr Clarke stated that the gardens were in need of more than weeding and needed a specialist to bring them back into good order.

**A72.15 Parish Office Computer –** The Clerk has ordered a new computer and it is expected to be in situ by mid to late next week. She has asked the company supplying the computer to action the transfer of data and set it up for use. She stated that it would be in the region of £500.

A79.15 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN ALL PAYMENTS –** Cllr Mrs Whittall **proposed,** Cllr Parkhurst **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that all the listed payments be approved for payment.

Cllr Keel queried the cost of the job advert, but was assured that this was the cost of using Shropshire Star jobs website.

A81.15 **ONGOING PROJECTS –** The Clerk advised councillors that she had added Parrs Pool as the next project to be looked at and that several items had now been moved to the completed projects area. Councillors noted the ongoing projects.

Cllr Keel voiced his concerns about residents appealing in the Villager for people to take to their boats and help clear Parrs Pool of the duck weed, he stated that it was a health and safety issue and should not be encouraged.

A82.15 **CORRESPONDENCE –** The Clerk provided councillors with several e-mails about amenity related issues including parking outside the school by large vehicles, an accident at the Parade, the Glebe Field trees and anti-social behaviour up at the skate park and BMX track. Cllr Parkhurst **proposed,** Cllr Mrs Trickett **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that because the Clerk has dealt with them accordingly that they be noted.

A83.15 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC -**  It was **proposed** by Cllr Mrs Whittall, **seconded** by Cllr Parkhurst and **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public under LGA 1972 ss 100 (2), so as to discuss Confidential matters.