

**Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins**  
**Chairman: Cllr Kieth Keel**

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**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 20 November 2017 in the Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Clarke, (Chair); Mrs Whittall, (Vice Chair); Keel, Breeze, Hudson; Jones; Engler; Mrs Lewis; Parkhurst; Gouge and Mrs Robinson.

**In attendance:** Caroline Higgins– Clerk; R Courtney, resident and employee

**A94.17 APOLOGIES – None**

**A95.17 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST –**Cllr Clarke declared that his wife is employed as a key holder for Long Meadow play area and he is the Council Representative to Bayston Hill Bowling Club. Cllr Mrs Whittall stated her son-in-law hires the Council football pitches. *Cllr Engler later declared his interest in item A101.17 as a resident of the Common)*

**A96.17 PUBLIC SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS –** Mrs Courtney offered to answer questions on agenda item A102.17 (Review of Litter and Dog Waste Bins). No questions were asked and the public session closed.

**A97.17 MINUTES –** It was **resolved unanimously** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2017 be approved as a true record.

**A98.17 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING –** The Committee noted the Clerk's report, which had been circulated with the agenda. It was resolved to paint and re-drill the astro turf goal posts and check the bolts weekly for ensure they are secure.

It was resolved that the 'Finale' additive should not be used more frequently than once every 6 weeks and that the Council will consider moving the pitches to prevent excessive indentation along the white lines.

The Committee noted that two bollards would be removed from the Parade at the request of the café. The Clerk will check if they will be repositioned. If not, the number of flower baskets ordered will be reduced in 2018. The Committee discussed the possibility of relocating the spare baskets to outside the Parish Office. It was agreed to relocate the Parade noticeboard and to renovate the benches.

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The Clerk reported verbally that the unofficial swings had been removed from the Common on the advice of the insurers and the reasons explained to local residents. The response from the insurers was noted by the Committee.

**A99.17 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS** – The Council noted the report circulated with the agenda. The Committee requested confirmation of the formal qualifications held by the companies providing quotations and requested a comparative quotation be obtained from Shropshire Council Property Services.

**A100.17 SPORTS AND RECREATION REVIEW** – The Committee noted the results from the recent questionnaire (summarised in report circulated with agenda). The Committee noted the high level of interest in outdoor gym equipment and noted the availability of grants for such equipment. It was resolved that the Council investigates the prices and options for outdoor gym equipment.

It was noted that there was no up to date list of clubs and societies available in the village and that the public were not well informed about which facilities were available or how to access them. It was agreed that the Parish facilities could be better advertised to the community.

Concern was expressed that social media should not lead Council policy but it was recognised as a useful way to engage with the community quickly and cheaply in conjunction with traditional consultation techniques.

It was suggested that a new scout hut could potentially include a sports hall for public use.

**A101.17 PARKING ON THE COMMON** – Cllr Engler declared his non-pecuniary personal interest as a resident of The Common but requested an opportunity to outline the parking problem. He remarked that whilst he had ample private parking, there were limited spaces for other residents' vehicles. The Compasses Inn has recently started to serve Sunday lunches which has attracted more customers who are parking on the verges and damaging the grass and kerbs. He suggested extending the existing parking provision and installing post and rail fencing around the rest of the Common perimeter.

The Committee agreed that parking on the verges should be discouraged but did not support increasing the number of parking spaces. It was noted that the brewers dray required sufficient width to deliver to the pub and might need to mount the kerb so post and rail fencing could cause an obstruction. The Council's maintenance contractor also requires access.

The Committee was reminded of the possibility that the Council would be liable for any damage to vehicles caused by fencing or other obstructions on the Common.

Cllr Clarke stated he was confident he could secure boulders from the quarry free of charge but that delivery and installation would have a cost. Cllr Clarke offered to liaise with the quarry about the selection and collection arrangements. The hire of a JCB type digger was agreed as the most practical method of collection.

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It was **resolved** by a majority vote of four in favour to two abstentions (including Cllr Engler's) that a budget of £2,000 be approved to collect and install suitably sized boulders from the quarry.

**A102.17 REVIEW OF LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS** – The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and it was proposed that the Council purchase 8 new bins with removable liners and a cowl to replace the bins around Lythwood playing fields and community woodlands, including the wheelie bin in the skate park. It was noted that plastic bins are vulnerable to arson so it was proposed that the bins be steel, similar to the type used by Shropshire Council elsewhere in the village.

**It was resolved that a budget of £5,000 be approved for replacement bins** with the style and final location to be agreed by the Clerk and Chair of the Amenities Committee.

**It was further resolved that the remaining bins be reviewed after six months to determine whether additional replacements were required.**

It was agreed that the option of using **recycling sorting** bins would be considered as part of the six month review. It was further agreed to discuss the need for additional bins at the next Visioning event and followed up at a subsequent Amenities Committee meeting.

**A103.17 TREE WORKS AT LYTHWOOD PAVILION** – The Committee noted that the trees were originally planted to comply with a planning condition to prevent light pollution from the bowling club floodlights. It was proposed that the optimal height to prevent the floodlights affecting the housing be established.

It was resolved to include the trees on the next tree survey and to check the appropriate height for compliance with the planning permission.

**A104.17 LAWNMOWER REPLACEMENT** – It was resolved to authorise the purchase of a replacement mower with a maximum budget of £650. The Clerk and Chairman of Amenities were authorised to select a suitable model.

**A105.17 WEEDSPRAYING** – It was **resolved unanimously** to invite tenders from suitably qualified contractors for a three year weed spraying contract.

**A106.17 PAYMENTS** – The Committee **resolved unanimously** to approve the list of payments presented by the Clerk.

**A107.17 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** – It was resolved unanimously to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 so as to discuss the following confidential matters;

**A108.17 CONFIDENTIAL QUOTATIONS** –

**Fire Risk Assessments** – It was resolved to defer this discussion until the information requested under agenda item A99.17 had been received.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm*

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