

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins

Chairman: Cllr Kieth Keel

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6 June 2018

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 9 April 2018  
in the Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Clarke, (Chair); Mrs Whittall, (Vice Chair); Keel;  
Engler; Ryan; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Howells and Mrs Robinson.

**In attendance:** Caroline Higgins– Clerk;

**A20.18 APOLOGIES** – Cllr Parkhurst, (personal); Cllr Breeze, (ill health)- these apologies were accepted by the Committee

**A21.18 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 declared that her son-in-law hires the Council football pitches; Cllr Engler later declared his interest in any matters relating to the Common as he was a resident of The Common)

**A22.18 PUBLIC SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – No members of the public were present

**A23.18 MINUTES** – It was **resolved unanimously** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2018 be approved as a true record.

**A24.18 USE OF PARISH FACILITIES**

- 1. Buggy Fitness Class** – The Committee resolved to permit a 1 month trial without charge after which time the trainer will be asked to make a small contribution.
- 2. Christchurch Nursery use of Youth and Community Building** – The increasing use of the Youth and Community Building was noted by the Committee as was the potential for this use to disrupt existing user groups. The Committee noted that the nursery would be at risk of closure should they not find alternative premises.

It was noted that the building was unlikely to meet OFSTED standards in its current condition and it was therefore agreed to ask the nursery to arrange an inspection by Shropshire Council and to review the request once the extent of any alterations was clear.

- 3. Walking Football** – The Committee noted that a volunteer had stepped forward to organise and manage the newly formed walking football group and it was agreed that Cllr Lewis would liaise with him to co-ordinate the group into the Monday morning fitness session. It was agreed that the

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group could use the Astro Turf for 1 month without charge. Additional sessions may be booked through the Parish Office like any other group.

**A25.18 OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT** – Cllr Robinson presented a report setting out the findings of the recent consultation. The responses on location had been divided between two clear preferences; the play park at Longmeadow and the Skate Park. Dual siting was strongly supported.

It was proposed by Cllr Engler that the equipment be sited next to the skate park and that a grant for 50% of the cost be applied for. He was seconded by Cllr Lewis and it was resolved unanimously.

It was proposed by Cllr Robinson that a budget of £5,000 (with a view to obtaining a further £5,000 matched funding) be approved. This was agreed unanimously.

It was further resolved to delegate authority for the choice of equipment to Cllrs Robinson, Clarke, Keel and the Clerk and that the final design shall be reported to the next Amenities Committee meeting.

**A26.18 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT** – The Committee resolved to consider the quotations under Confidential Matters. *It subsequently resolved to appoint Shrewsbury Town Council to undertake grass cutting on The Common, The Glebelands and on the A49 grass verges in accordance with their quotation.*

**A27.18 GENERAL WEEDSPRAYING CONTRACT** – The Committee was asked to explain why their own staff could not undertake weed spraying despite some of them being trained to do so. Cllr Keel stated that this had been considered in the past but the cost of protective clothing and equipment had been considered to be prohibitive.

The Chairman proposed that the quotations be considered under confidential matters but that the Committee also gives consideration to addressing the problem of ragwort, (which is not covered by this contract). He proposed that the Clerk and Chair discuss how to address the issue and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

*Following consideration of confidential quotations in the confidential session, the Committee resolved to appoint Boyd's Groundcare to carry out general weed spraying for the Council*

**A28.18 CHANGING ROOM IMPROVEMENTS** – The response and observations from the Football Federation in response to the Council's grant application were noted with disappointment. It was suggested by Cllr Keel that it could be time to review the use of both the Pavilion and Youth and Community Building and he proposed a working party be formed to undertake a joint feasibility study to develop a larger scale improvement plan encompassing both buildings and considering the potential for relocation of the scouts and / or Christchurch Nursery to the Lythwood site. His proposal was seconded by Cllr Robinson and was unanimously agreed.

Cllrs Clarke, Engler, Keel, Robinson and Lewis were subsequently appointed to the Working Party.

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**A29.18**

**CLERK'S REPORT –**

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT** – The Clerk detailed the proposed changes to the scheme, which are likely to result in a smaller grant, (maximum £1,500) and Councils will be expected to provide matched funding for schemes and demonstrate added social, economic or environmental value. It was resolved to continue to apply for the Environmental Maintenance Grant for as long as it is available.
2. **The Parade** – The ongoing concerns of residents in relation to the disabled parking bays were noted and Cllr Clarke confirmed he is addressing the matter with Shropshire Council. The other issues were noted.
3. **The Common** – The need to level the ruts was noted. The Committee resolved to write to the new publicans to ask them to discourage customers from parking on the grass.
4. **Tree Swings** – It was noted that a resident had put swings in the tree again and it was agreed to arrange to remove them.
5. **Street lighting improvements** – It was resolved to arrange replacement of the remaining Parish Lights on the Langford Estate with LED lanterns as soon as possible.
6. **Football donations** – The Committee noted the donation of footballs by Dave Bennett and it was resolved to send him a letter of thanks.
7. **Longmeadow Play Area** – The Committee resolved to paint the storage container with anti-climb paint in addition to the toilet block roof. It was resolved to review the future of the toilet block at a future meeting.

*At 9:00pm it was proposed by Cllr Whittall, seconded by Cllr Engler and resolved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to enable the business on the agenda to be completed.*

**A30.18**

**REVIEW OF AMENITIES –**

1. **Tennis Courts** – Cleaning and renovation of lines required – It was resolved to delegate arrangements to the Clerk and Cllr Clarke.
2. **BMX** – Additional hedge quicks required where fence has been climbed through.
3. **Astro turf** – Quotes to be obtained for deep cleaning
4. **Tree Planting** – The Committee noted that a memorial tree would be planted in the Community woodland at the weekend.

**A31.18**

**PAYMENTS** – The Clerk tabled a list of payments becoming due and the Committee **resolved unanimously** to approve payments 1 to 14 on the list attached to the minutes. (Proposed by Cllr Keel, seconded by Cllr Whittall)

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**A32.18 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;

**A33.18 CONFIDENTIAL QUOTATIONS** –

The Council considered confidential quotations for Grass Cutting and weed spraying contracts.

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

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