

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT AXMINSTER GUILDHALL ON MONDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.15 P.M.

1. PRESENT: Councillors J.W. Walden (Chairman), P.G. Hayward (Vic-chairman), G.S. Godbeer (part of the time), D.R.H. Hull, M.D. Symes and Town Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and the Deputy Town Clerk, (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage).

2. APOLOGIES : Councillors Mrs. D.J. Hull and A.T. Moulding.

3. MINUTES OF MEETNG HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2015: the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2015, having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC FORUM: A representative from the Allotment Association raised the following matters:

a) That in reviewing annual rents, the Town Council should bear in mind that tenants have numerous other costs relating to the running of their plots. Cllr. Walden said that the cost centre was required to at least break even and not to be a charge on the rate payers. It was agreed that the details of income and expenses be supplied to the Allotment Association.

b) That the Town Council should take a firmer line with those tenants who fail to maintain their plots in good order as seeding weeds from such plots are a great nuisance to other tenants. It was agreed that spot checks would be made. It was agreed that tenants would be reminded of the requirement for all plots to be numbered clearly.

c) That the Town Council should be proactive in keeping vacant plots strimmed and that spraying could cause problems to adjacent tenants who did not approve of the use of chemicals.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2015:

a) Allotments – covered under public forum.

b) Seats – there was discussion regarding the legal issues relating to the seat on private land adjacent to footpath 82.

CLLR. HAYWARD DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS LIVING ADJACENT TO THIS FOOTPATH.

The Town Clerk will look out the last known address for the landowner, who is thought to be a developer.

CLLR. GODBEER ARRIVED AT THIS POINT

6.ALLOTMENT MATTERS:

a) Allotment Rents for 2017-2018 – duly proposed and seconded that rent for large and standard plots be increased by £1 to £35 and £31 respectively and that half plots be increased by 50p to £18.50. Agreed.

b) Letter to Allotment Holders – it was agreed that a letter would be sent out in spring advising of the new rents, the requirement for numbering the plots, and proposed actions regarding seeding weeds.

c) Amendments to Allotment Rules – none were put forward.

d) Woodbury Park Allotments – the Chairman will look into a problem with grass growing through scrap metal which appears to have been dumped on the site. There is also some kerbing which needs to be removed.

e) North Street – nothing to report.

f) Millwey Rise – a contractor will be asked to remove and replace the broken gate post with one with a catch compatible with the latch on the existing gate.

g) Annual Meeting with Allotment Holders – a firmer line of action will be taken with those who breach allotment regulations. The Vice-chairman will make spot checks. Compliance with the requirement to number plots will be checked at the annual site visit.

h) Riparian Matters – the Chairman said that there were no matters of concern.

7. AMENITY MATTERS:

a) Seats – two seats in need of repair or replacement were the Stocker memorial seat in Lyme Street by the South Street Car Park and the Lions seat by the St. John Ambulance station. Cllr. Hayward suggested that a rolling programme of renewal with seats in a vandal resistant material might be the best approach, with money being put into the budget for this. Where donors specifically request that the seat be in wood then a request for an accompanying contribution towards future maintenance will be made.

b) Floral Displays – thanks given to the volunteer who has taken on responsibility for these displays and for his support team.

It was agreed to follow the same format as in the previous year but to have fewer but larger plants.

c) Bus Shelters – since the original repairs were needed a further panel has been damaged. This will be added to the list of repairs needed. Arrangements will be put in hand for a new bus shelter at Millwey Rise. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Hayward, proposed that funding for this should come from the Community Benefit Fund. Agreed. The Town Clerk will seek quotations and find out the technical specification for the base.

d) Notice Boards – a suitable model for new Town notice boards had still to be agreed.

e) Christmas Lights –

CLLR. HAYWARD DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE AXMINSTER CHRISTMAS LIGHTING ASSOCIATION

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the lay out of the town did not lend itself to the same kind of displays that could be staged at Lyme Regis or Honiton. It was felt that the main concentration should be around the Minster Green. It was felt that the option of lighting on the Guildhall and the Old Courthouse buildings should be considered. The Town Clerk will contact Colyton Parish Council for details regarding the lights on the Feoffes building.

f) Dog Bins – 4 further dog bins have now been installed. There are still funds in hand for the installation of two more bins but suitable locations, possibly in new developments, would have to be agreed.

g) Footpaths/Cycleways – Cllr. D.R.H. Hull expressed his concerns regarding potential damage to the surface of the Stop Line Way as a consequence of invasion of the path by rampant bramble growth.

8. SECTION 106 MONEYS:

Cllr Walden said that he had not been able to contact the Section 106 Monitoring Officer to find out how much money was available for allocation. Once this had been done then various projects could be considered for the participatory budgeting process. He reported that provision of the play areas at the Wainhomes and Betterment sites was making gradual progress.

9. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS REGARDING THE JUBILEE FIELD: concerns raised by local residents regarding various issues with the Jubilee Field, particularly drainage, were noted, The Chairman stated that it would be sometime before the Town Council would assume responsibility for the field and that it would not do so until all snagging issues had been resolved. In preparation for the assumption of responsibility for the Play Area, training in weekly and annual inspections would be undertaken.

Signed Date