

## AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M.

1. PRESENT: Cllr. J.J. Farrow, (Mayor), Cllr. A.G. Sedgewick, (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Adamson-Drage, Cllr. Sleight, Cllr. M.D.G. Spurway, Cllr. Walden, the Town Clerk and the Administrative Assistant.

2 Members of the public, 0 representative of the press.

2. APOLOGIES: None.

3. NOT PRESENT: Cllr. M. Mynard.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Farrow proposed Cllr. Walden. Cllr. Spurway seconded the proposal. Agreed.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Farrow proposed Cllr. Spurway. Cllr. Adamson-Drage seconded the proposal. Agreed.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLRS. FARROW, SEDGEWICK AND SPURWAY EACH DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING MEMBERS OF THE AXMINSTER GUILDHALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL.

CLLR. FARROW DECLARED AN INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION AND A GOVERNOR OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY AND AS A JOINT TENANT OF A TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT AT WOODBURY PARK ALLOTMENTS

CLLR. ADAMSON-DRAGE DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST AS BEING THE SPOUSE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY, AS A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER SKATEPARK STEERING GROUP, AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION AND AS BEING SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR AXMINSTER YOUTH CLUB.

7. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE: Cllr. Walden proposed that these be accepted but be amended as different circumstances dictate. Agreed.

8. PUBLIC FORUM: A representative from Axminster Heritage Centre referred to the report supplied to the Town Council on Town Signage which had been prepared by the Manager of the centre. She said that the preference would be to concentrate on signage directing people within the town using strategically placed Town Maps and fingerpost signage. It was suggested that the individual fingers be funded by the beneficial venue. This would ensure a community approach to the matter.

A different member of the public asked that the Town entrance signs be included in the exercise.

9. ALLOTMENT MATTERS: Work to remove the asbestos should be undertaken prior to the growing season. Tenants will be notified by recorded delivery that the work to remove shed All allotment sites are full. As the waiting list at North Street has remained static for years. Cllr. Walden proposed that an approach be made to the District Council with a view to acquiring any unused land they have between the allotment site and the Millbrook. Agreed.

10. STREET FURNITURE: Benches in the current year's budget will be installed by the cemetery and the former Methodist Church when conditions permit. A further attempt will be made to contact Wainhomes regarding provision of a litter bin at the Play Area and a seat on Flax Meadow Lane.

Those for the coming year will be on the Wainhomes estate, subject to permission, and on Chard Road below First Avenue.

Materials for the bus shelter repairs have been ordered and area awaited. The Clerk will investigate who is to remove the redundant bus shelter.

11. SIGNAGE Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr Farrow, proposed that the Town Council should fund provision of the finger-post pillars and the Town Map frames. Agreed. A working party comprising representatives of Axminster Heritage and the Town Council

12. FOOTPATHS regarding the informal path linking with Footpath 69, various avenues to resolve the problem with the defective footbridge will be explored. Concerns relating to liability were raised should the Town Council take unilateral action.

13. LISTED STRUCTURES. The planning consultants are preparing the planning application. Contact will be made with Western Power Distribution regarding disconnection of the power supply.

14. JUBILEE FIELD. No date for transfer into public ownership had been agreed as yet.

15. CEMETERY. Fees will be reviewed in due course. The subject of additional fees to cover Saturday interments was discussed. Cllr. Sedgewick proposed that no additional fee be charged for Saturdays. Agreed.

Contractors will be asked to advise regarding provision of firm paths in the Z section but it was realised that the costs would be considerable.

16. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING SECTION 106 PROJECTS. There was lack of clarity regarding whether any progress had been made regarding moving the skateboard project from Cloakham to the former Millwey Rise playing field. A letter will be sent to the Chief Executive of the District Council. Progress with the Fun Track was also unclear. An alternative location to Millwey Rise Play area was proving hard to identify.

The climbing wall at Raymonds Hill will shortly be put out to consultation with the school children.

17. REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT – A working party comprising the outdoor staff, their line managers and Cllrs. Adamson-Drage and Spurway will discuss this and report back. Existing equipment is being serviced during the coming weeks.

Cllr. Spurway proposed that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Cllr. Walden seconded the proposal. Agreed

18. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Asbestos Removal. Both companies which had quoted had worked with Councils previously. Quotes received were:

Contractor A	4690
Contractor B	1850

Cllr. Farrow, seconded by Cllr. Spurway, proposed that the quote from Contractor B be accepted. Recorded delivery letters will be sent to tenants advising them to make alternative arrangements for their shed contents to be rehoused for the duration of any works where relevant.

19. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Cemetery Chapels. It was agreed that this be deferred pending receipt of the third quote.

20. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Tree Works. The contractor had quoted £1270 for the three allotment sites. It had proved difficult to establish the involvement or otherwise of the District Council regarding Millwey Rise. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Farrow, proposed that the works be done subject to clarification of the position regarding Millwey Rise.

21. TENANCY MATTERS: the Clerk updated Councillors on the present situation.

Signed ..... Date .....