

## **AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT AXMINSTER GUILDHALL ON WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 AT NOON.

1. PRESENT: Councillors J.W. Walden (Chairman), D.R.H. Hull, A.L. Young, the Town Handyman (Mr. J. Hall) and Town Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and the Deputy Town Clerk, (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage).

2. APOLOGIES : Councillors P.G. Hayward (Vice-chairman), G.S. Godbeer, A.T. Moulding, L.A.Rowe and M.D. Symes.

3. MINUTES OF MEETNG HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016: the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC FORUM: No matters were raised.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016: None.

#### 6. AMENITY MATTERS

7. SITE VISITS: as heavy rain was forecast for 28<sup>th</sup> June and following discussion with the Chairman,, the Town Clerk, the Town Handyman and Cllr. Moulding had formed a working party on 27<sup>th</sup> June and visited the various sites listed and taken notes in preparation for the meeting.

a) Jubilee Fountain – structurally sound. Cllr. Walden said that it had been confirmed that an electrical supply was viable up to the fuse box. He proposed that an electrical contractor be asked to investigate why the lights on top of the fountain were non-operational. Agreed. A local scaffolding firm had offered to scaffold the structure to enable investigations at no cost to the Town Council.

b) Floral Displays and Grass Cutting – the new, lower, planter at the Tesco Roundabout was welcomed as it had improved visibility. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Hull, proposed that money from the Community Benefit Fund be used to provide saddle planters for the walls around the enclosure by the N.C.P. car park on the Webster's Garage site. Agreed.

The problem of maintenance of amenity grass, particularly on older developments which pre-date the appointment of management companies to cater for such requirements or which were never adopted by the Highway Authority, was discussed. It was felt that there was no simple solution to this problem – possibilities included paving over the areas or residents engaging a suitably qualified contractor to cut the grass as required or planting the area with wild flowers or low maintenance shrubs.

c) Woodbury Park Allotments – a contractor will be asked to cut the outside of the hedge on safety/visibility grounds for vehicles exiting the site. There are several vacant plots.

As paths become vacant the opportunity will be taken to create paths wide enough for the tractor to use where this is necessary.

d) Millwey Rise Allotments – two plots are now vacant and a letter needs to be sent to another tenant regarding seeding weeds. The Handyman said that a smaller hedge cutter would be lighter and more manoeuvrable than the larger one for cutting the inside of the hedges at the Cemetery.

e) North Street Allotments – the bottom bar of the gate needs and insert welded in place at the hinge end. Some signage on the gate needs to be replaced.

f) Seats, Bus Shelters and Notice Boards – the Town Handyman has inspected these and drawn up a schedule of the remedial works required. The Rouse Memorial Seat at the Cemetery is beyond repair and will be replaced by one made from recycled plastic, as will the worst one of the remaining seats, following the decision made by the full Town Council at the June Meeting.

Cllr. Hayward has already obtained the materials to re-glaze the bus shelters at Gamberlake for which he but has not yet fixed a time with the Handyman to undertake this work.

g) Footpaths – pedestrian signage in the town centre was discussed. It was the feeling of the meeting that maps positioned at strategic points would be more effective. The Town Clerk will discuss this with the local printers and also check on the cost of upgrading/replacing the existing signage. Cllr. Hull mentioned that the vegetation to the east of the path to the rear of the Minster beside where one of the sign posts is positioned is very over grown. The Town Clerk will raise this with the appropriate authority.

h) Jubilee Field – Cllr. Walden said that he had been approached by a member of the public who wished to stage a community event on the Jubilee Field. The Town Clerk advised that the individual would have to obtain event insurance for that day and would also have to gain the consent of the current owners of the field as it is not in Town Council ownership yet

i) Public Rights of Way - the Town Clerk had passed on to the Hon. Footpath Warden various matters which had been brought to her attention by residents.

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