

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT AXMINSTER GUILDHALL ON MONDAY, 19th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00 P.M.

1. PRESENT: Councillors J.W. Walden (Chairman), A.T. Moulding, Cllr. A.E.J. Seward, Cllr. Young, Cty. Cllr. Hall, the Town Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and the Deputy Town Clerk, (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage). Present by invitation Mrs. S. Tallack (District Council Section 106 Monitoring Officer) and Ms. J. Buckley (District Council Community Engagement and Funding Officer).

4 Members of the public. No representatives of the press.

2. APOLOGIES: Councillors P.G. Hayward (Vice-chairman), G.S. Godbeer, G. Anderson, D.R.H. Hull, L.A.Rowe

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER 2017: the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2017 having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC FORUM:

Representatives of the Axminster Skatepark spoke in support of this project and the benefits it may have in giving disaffected young people an interest which may engage their energies in a positive way and assist in abating problems with antisocial behaviour such as are being experienced around the town at present.

CLLR. MOULDING AND WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING MEMBERS OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY

CLLR. MOULDING DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

ARC BEREAVEMENT, AXMINSTER ARTS, AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE, AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT HOSPISCARE, AXMINSTER HERITAGE LTD., AXMINSTER HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS, AXMINSTER MUSICAL THEATRE, AXMINSTER SKATE PARK, AXMINSTER ARTS, AXMINSTER PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP, AXMINSTER REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD, AXMINSTER TOWN CRICKET CLUB, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE LTD., CLOWANCE CHARITABLE TRUST, FRIENDS OF AXMINSTER CHURCH, LYME REGIS GOLF CLUB, TONY COLES CHARITABLE TRUST, VIRTUE AND HONOUR LODGE NO 494, CONSERVATIVE PARTY, CONSERVATIVE CLUB, EAST DEVON CONSERVATIVE GROUP, DEVON COUNTY CONSERVATIVE GROUP, MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS' ASSOCIATION.

HE ALSO DECLARED THAT AS THE PARENT OF A DISABLED ADULT SON HE HAD AN INTEREST IN MATTERS RELATING TO DISABLED ACCESS AND BENEFITS

DISTRICT CLLR. HALL DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORT CENTRE.

Dist. Cllr. Hall, said that planning permission had been granted for a new skatepark. He said that if any movement in the near future it was likely that those plans would be implemented. Cllr. Moulding said that it was unlikely that there would be any outcome of the recent exhibition for a new building at Cloakham until at least 2020 and he hoped that the skatepark would have been achieved by that time.

A member of the public spoke of his reluctance to take his children to his nearest play park (North Street) because of its run down condition and the dangers from broken glass, old cans and other litter.

Cllr. Walden said that that play park would be upgraded by East Devon District Council in the coming financial year, it was hoped by the summer holidays.

The Town Clerk said that a member of the public had expressed an interest in having funding for outdoor bowls, which would come under the heading recreation.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER 2017: it was resolved that these be deferred to the next meeting.

6. ALLOCATION OF SECTION 106 MONEY – PLAY: Mrs. Tallack presented details of the moneys accrued from the various developments in the parish and how that would be allocated in terms of recreation, sport and play, provided that the planning proposal was carried out. Some funding has to be spent within 600 m of the development site. Some is not so site specific. The lack of play provision at Raymonds Hill was highlighted. Cllr. Moulding said this had been raised in Neighbourhood Plan discussions. The Town Council should try to identify possible sites.

Cllr. Walden said that the existing play areas at Loretto Road and Foxhill are both in need of upgrading. Moneys from the Cloakham development are earmarked for upgrading the play area at Millwey Rise.

Mrs. Tallack will advise on what funding would be available for each site. Community Infrastructure Levy does not form part of the equation at the moment.

In response to a question, Mrs. Tallack said that there was £230,000 available mainly in the form of capital. This would be dealt with later in the summer via a process whereby people would be invited to submit bids for any project relating to any outdoor sport named by Sport England. Once the bids had all been submitted then these would be evaluated by District Council officers and those which were deemed to be feasible, achievable and deliverable would go forward for the public referendum. Those at the top of the list would be done, according to funding available. It is usually about 2 years between the voting process and completion of the chosen scheme or schemes.

A suitable time frame was discussed and a more detailed timetable will be drawn up. The aim is to invite bids for sport/recreation funding in early March, bids to be received by early April and then for meetings to be held to discuss bids in April and early May and for the voting to take place in late June at various community events under conditions similar to those prevailing at elections. The results will give a list through which the District Council will work over the next five year

Ms. Buckley will sent round templates for publicity. The timeline for action would be:

- a) Early March - call for type and indicative costing proposals (over a 10 year period) to be submitted by end of March.
- b) April – short list from proposals received.
- c) May – seek more detailed information from viable projects
- d) Voting process to take place.

Cllr. Hall said that he may have some capital fund available from his County resources to provide a limited amount of match funding

Cllr. Walden said that it was crucial for applicant groups to be able to demonstrate match funding in place.

7. OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO SECTION 106 MONEYS – JUBILEE FIELD: Cllrs. Walden and Seward stated that the play area was in an unacceptable condition and questioned whether it should ever have been signed off after installation. Cllr. Seward said that most maintenance to the field was being done by District Council staff, who took a great pride keeping the town looking smart but this was enabling the developer to default on its duties. Mrs. Tallack said that she would ensure that the developer was billed for work done by the District Council. Cllr. Seward said that the state of the play park was such that one would not want to take young children in there because of the uneven surface and defects in the units.

Cllr. Hall asked about any drainage that had been installed. Mrs. Tallack said that the original intention had been that the field be an F.A. standard football pitch but that the Town Council had opted to maintain the field in its present format to accommodate the requests from dog walkers and at this point moneys allocated to level the land and drain it as a football pitch would have been lost. Cllr. Walden said that some drainage had been installed down by the bottom entrance. Cllr. Hall said that lateral and secondary drainage was essential as the problem would only get worse as time went on. Mrs. Tallack said that the best way forward would be for the Town Council to write to the developer and state that it was not prepared to take on the field until it had been properly maintained in a satisfactory condition for 12 months, which is not the current situation. Otherwise the Town Council could find itself taking on an asset with obvious liabilities right from the start. Cllr. Seward said that a tripartite meeting between the developer, the District Council and the Town Council was needed.

Cllr. Walden said that he had been told by the developer that the grass was being cut by an outside contractor. He also mentioned that following removal of vegetation by the stone wall the poor condition of the wall had become apparent. A member of the public indicated that ownership of the wall lay with the residents of the houses. Developers will be more concerned regarding planning enforcement and the local officer should be asked whether there were any such breaches as if these are listed then that freezes house sales on the site. Any processes regarding breaches of Section 106 were more costly and time consuming.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

Signed Date