



**SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 commencing at 7:00pm.

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**Members Present:**

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)  
Councillor Hall

Councillor Jackson (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Todd

**Absent:**

Councillor Wegwermer

**Officers Present:**

Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer  
Stephen Holley, Town Clerk

**In Attendance:**

Councillor R Tippins  
6 members of the public

### **MINUTES**

**Public Participation**

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern. The following matters were raised;

- New Councillors. A number of comments were made from the Public Gallery welcoming the new members.
- Coppice Street Corner. A representative of Shaftesbury in Bloom stated that it wished to see the information board moved to the lower part of the area as it related to the history of the Post Office and that at time of moving, they would take it away and clean it. Also, if hedging was to be planted, it would be sufficient to mask the wall behind.
- Noticeboards. It was stated that the history of the noticeboard project was that there would be a community board at the entrance to Swans Yard.
- Park Walk. It was stated that: the hedges around the Gardens obstructed the a view over the Blackmore Vale; on approaching Park Walk one was met with a sea of tarmac and it was suggested that the Town Council discuss with English Heritage something more appropriate for the area.

**R01 Apologies**

Received from Councillor Wegwermer due to work commitments. Councillor Hall would be late due to work commitments.

**R02 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

No declarations of interest or dispensations had been received. All members were invited to declare any interests throughout the meeting if the need arose.

**R03 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 as a correct record.

**R04 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that Councillor R Tippins was present in an ex-officio capacity and therefore may contribute to the meeting but did not have a vote.

The Arts Centre was currently running an exhibition of Shaftesbury Views, paintings of trees, that there had been an excellent response of 86 paintings and visitors had the opportunity to vote for their favourite. There was also a questionnaire regarding the Shaftesbury Trees to be completed which would also be made available at the Town Council.

The Swimming Pool was now in the Town Council's ownership (since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015) and the Council was currently putting together a plan to open it in time for and for the duration of the school summer holidays. A press release had been issued inviting people to come forward as volunteers and lifeguards.

**R05 Tree Applications**

The Officer's report 0615ROSE05 was received. The Committee **RESOLVED** to submit the following observations to North Dorset District Council:

| Reference  | Address                    | Detail  |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| 2/2015/0732/CATREE   | 52 High Street             | T1 (x2) - Leylandii - Fell  |
| Tree Group Comments: These are not particularly attractive trees but if they were felled the car park and its environs would benefit if they were replaced with another tree such as a silver birch. A robin is nesting low down by the trees, so we recommend that the trees are not felled until the nesting season is over. |                            |   |
| Committee Comments: The Committee was in agreement with the comments made by the Shaftesbury Tree Group  |                            |   |
| 2/2015/0755/TPTREE   | Starmead,<br>2 Umbers Hill | G1 (x3) – Conifers – Crown reduction by 20%<br>approx. 1.5m<br>T1 – Portuguese Laurel – Crown reduction by 40%<br>approx. 3m off the top and 2m from the sides<br>G2 (x2) – Thuja – Crown raise by up to 4m<br>T2 – Yew – Crown reduction by 40% approx. 2m |

| Reference   | Address                    | Detail                                    |
|---|----------------------------|---|
|   |                            | T3 – Conifer – Reduce by 50% approx. 1.5m |
| Tree Group Comments: Although these trees lie within a TPO Woodland Area, these trees, with the exception of the yew, are garden trees that look out of place amongst the native beech and other forest trees on the slope. We would be happy if the owner wanted to remove them completely and replace them with native trees. |                            |   |
| Committee Comments: The Committee was in agreement with the comments made by the Shaftesbury Tree Group   |                            |   |
| 2/2015/0766/CATREE  | Starmead,<br>2 Umbers Hill | T4 – Willow Fell                          |
| Tree Group Comments: We are unable to see this willow from the driveway or road, so are unable to comment.  |                            |   |
| Committee Comments: The Committee was in agreement with the comments made by the Shaftesbury Tree Group   |                            |   |
| TPO 540-2015  | Land at<br>Littledown      | T1 – Oak – see map overleaf               |
| Tree Group Comments: We certainly approve of the TPO  |                            |   |
| Committee Comments: The Committee was in agreement with the comments made by the Shaftesbury Tree Group   |                            |   |

## R06 Coppice Street

The Officer's report 0615ROSE06 was received. The Chairman expressed a wish to look into resin bonded gravel as an alternative surface, in order to provide a link with the greenstone of the town, to add trees and plants. The design would then be costed to determine what could be achieved internally by the Council's Grounds Team, in order to maximise expenditure on the materials to ensure a quality finish. The Town Clerk relayed NDDC's Technical Officer's advice that to pave the area would cost in the region of £5,000-£7,000; way in excess of the project budget. It was **AGREED** to refer the project back to the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group for further discussion, with its contribution to be referred back to the Committee for its consideration.

## R07 Queen Mother's Garden

The Officer's report 0615ROSE07 was received. The Committee received an update on the weeding and planting already undertaken and thanks were extended to Brigit Strawbridge and the volunteers. It was advised that the planting scheme was to be white, cream and pink, low maintenance and bee friendly. The next planting would take place in the autumn, when daffodil and crocus bulbs would be planted. The walls would be planted with honeysuckle and other climbing plants. The Grounds Team would remove the loose concrete bricks next to the walls but leave the loose Greenstone blocks in place.

The budget was £500 and due to being able to source young plants only £100 plus petrol costs had been committed to date.

The Chairman stated that her preference for the next sites for a similar project would be for Brionne and the Pamela Reynolds Memorial Garden next to the Swimming Pool.

#### **R08 Maltings Play Area (Green Acre / East Green)**

The Chairman gave an oral report providing a display of the preferred option as selected by residents of The Maltings. It was reported that North Dorset District Council had given an in-principle agreement for putting in a play area to the value of £28,000 using s.106 money and an in-principle agreement for the transfer of the land to the Town Council. The Committee **RESOLVED** to support Wicksteed Option Two as selected by the Maltings residents.

#### **R09 Play Inspection Report**

The Officer's report 0615ROSE09 was received and noted. It was requested that update reports be provided to the Committee to identify costs and timescales for work being carried out. Officers were requested to enquire of the Play Inspection Company about the safety of the surface of the skate ramps. Councillor R Tippins noted that the District Council had s.106 money set aside for skating, which might be able to be used for provision of a new piece of equipment and specialist paint.

#### **R10 Project Plans**

The Officer's report 0615ROSE10 was received. It was requested that the A30 Allotments project be re-allocated to the ROSE Committee and noted that the project would be funded by s.106 money. It was requested that the Chairman be kept informed of progress of the transfer of the allotment site. It was **AGREED** to request that Committee members consider which projects they would like to be assigned to, for decision at the next meeting. Discussion took place regarding s.106 money available for Castle Hill and consideration given to extending the footpath around the old castle. It was understood that funds remained from the original s.106 monies for the footpath and it was suggested that they could be used to install a bench and a kissing gate. It was **AGREED** not to populate the dates of the project schedules and to consider allocating to quarters of the year.

#### **R11 Grounds Team Update**

The Officer's report 0605ROSE11 was received and noted. The Committee was advised that one full-time member of the Grounds Team and one temporary member of the Grounds Team had just been appointed. The Chairman asked if taking on an Apprentice had been considered. The Clerk advised that that would be a matter for Council debate.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.47pm

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Signed

Date