



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 7th July 2015 commencing at 7:10pm.

Members Present:

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Todd

Councillor Hall (for part of the meeting)

Absent:

Councillor Jackson

Officers Present:

Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer

In Attendance:

Councillors Proctor, Taylor and R Tippins
1 member of the press
4 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. There were no matters raised, Mr Parker requested to speak at relevant points during the meeting on matters he had provided guidance on.

R12 Apologies

Received from Councillor Jackson due to work commitments, he had provided notes on matters to be discussed and these were read out to the Committee at the relevant points in the meeting. It was reported that Councillor Wegwermer had resigned her position on the Committee for personal reasons.

R13 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.

It was agreed to take Chairman's Announcements as the next item of business.

R14 Chairman's Announcements

The provision of a play area at The Maltings / Greenacre was progressing. The Chairman confirmed that North Dorset District Council had instructed the developer to start the process of transfer of land to North Dorset District Council with a view to it then being transferred to Shaftesbury Town Council. It was anticipated that the play area would begin construction in October 2015.

7:15pm. At this point in the meeting, Councillor Hall arrived.

The Neighbourhood Plan highlighted that the majority of people in Shaftesbury rated open space and environment as highly important with 90% wanting to protect open spaces and 85% wanting to protect trees and wildlife. It was reported that 62% wanted to develop cycle ways from the town into open countryside.

The Queen Mothers Garden had been the location for a Yoga event for World Yoga Day on 21st June. This had been organised by Brigit Strawbridge who had requested that the charge was to bring a pre-specified plant as a donation for the garden. The day had been a huge success. In addition, Shaftesbury Snowdrops have donated 1,000 snowdrop bulbs to the garden.

St John's Churchyard, the location of an Ancient Yew was on the 'at risk' register. It was hoped that the District Council's tree officer would be able to inspect the health and care of the tree and advise the Council. There was aspiration by the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group to look into non-invasive survey of the churchyard and potentially mark the outline of the old chapel with snowdrops.

It was confirmed that the Council had agreed that the locomotive sign and engine would be going on loan to Shaftesbury Gold Hill Museum for a period of five years and that they were looking into the history of the items.

R15 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2015 as a correct record and they were duly signed.

R16 Tree Applications

There were no tree applications for consideration by the Committee.

R17 Wood-fired Pizza Oven

The Officer's report 0715ROSE06 was received and it was confirmed that the request was for a weekly visit to the Town. The Committee felt that the mobile pizza vendor would be well received in the town, consideration was given to existing local businesses and it was **RESOLVED** to permit to a trial run of a weekly pitch at £20 per time on the Town Hall forecourt until the end of September 2015 and for the Committee to revisit the matter at its next Committee meeting on 8th September 2015.

R18 Native American Powwow

The Officer's report 0715ROSE07 was received. The Committee was enthusiastic about welcoming the group to Shaftesbury and considered whether in future years, Castle Hill might be a more appealing location with views towards

Glastonbury. It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission to the organisers for use of Barton Hill Recreation Ground from 27th May to 30th May 2016 inclusive.

R19 Shaftesbury to Gillingham Cycleway

The Officer's report 0715ROSE08 was received and advised that this subject also fell within the Planning and Highways Committee's remit and would be considered by that Committee on 21st July 2015. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan and the Gold Hill Fair 2013 had identified the importance of cycleway which links Shaftesbury and Gillingham. It was **AGREED** to write to Gillingham Town Council to formally enter into discussions for a joint project and to contact the Shaftesbury and District Task Force to look into funding opportunities. It was further **AGREED** to form a Working Party to include nominated individuals from Gillingham, Shaftesbury and other interested parties (keen cyclists).

R20 Grass Verges

The Officer's report 0715ROSE09 was received and advised that this subject also fell within the Planning and Highways Committee's remit and would be considered by that Committee on 21st July 2015. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had indicated strength of feeling from Shaftesbury regarding wild life and wild plants as well as considering safety implications for pedestrians and vehicles. It was **AGREED** to enter into discussions with Dorset County Council Highways regarding the transfer of responsibility of grass cutting maintenance to Shaftesbury Town Council.

R21 Coppice Street Corner

The Officer's report 0715ROSE10 was received. It was noted that traditionally railings were painted dark so that they disguised the start of any tarnishing. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to order appropriate coloured fencing within the budget of £1,000 and agree the colour in consultation with local landscape architects. (*Financial Implication – £1,000 Street Furniture budget*)

R22 S.106 Project Initiation

The Officer's report 0715ROSE11 was received and noted. In regards to further work at Castle Hill, the Committee requested that the Rangers be asked to include the Castle Mound in its care of Castle Hill Green. Consideration was given to interpretive signs and benches with a plan being tabled by the Open Spaces Group. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk to purchase three woodland benches and a commission an interpretive sign (*Financial Implication – £600 street furniture budget for benches, £300 noticeboards budget for interpretive sign*).

In consideration of improvements at the Skate Park, the Chairman reported that the users of the park had identified a need for the ramps to be resurfaced and requested an additional box for jumping off. It was agreed to look into re-surfacing and painting to be carried out under the repairs and maintenance budget and to seek further advice on reallocation of s.106 funds for the skate park to a larger project if the Town Council's Play Equipment budget could be allocated to the skate park.

R23 Queen Mother's Garden

The Officer's report 0715ROSE12 was received and noted. It was **AGREED** that the no herbicide would be used in the Queen Mother's Garden in order to support the 'bee friendly' initiative for the garden and that the garden would be maintained by volunteers until an agreed time to hand over to the Town Council's Grounds Team.

R24 Tree Planting Schedule

The Officer's report 0715ROSE13 was received and noted that the American Pear proposed for Coppice Street Corner was an ornamental pear. Concern was raised at placing a tree on the green in front of St John's Church. It was reported that 80 Beech trees had been planted on Christy's Lane in 1980 in honour of the Queen Mother's 80's birthday, it was suggested that in honour of her living to 102, the number of trees be increased to 102. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk to release £1,500 for tree planting in consultation with Shaftesbury Open Spaces and Shaftesbury Tree Group and in consideration of the amendments noted above. (*Financial Implication - £1,500 Tree Planting*)

R25 Officer Report

The Officer's Report 0715ROSE14 was received and noted.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:07pm

Signed

Date