



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 10th November 2015 commencing at 7:00pm.

Members Present:

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Hall (for part of the meeting)
Councillor R Tippins

Councillor Francis (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Todd

Absent:

There were no members absent.

Officers Present:

Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer

In Attendance:

Two 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;

- Shaftesbury in Bloom – that it has historically looked after, in part, St John's Churchyard and Brionne Garden.

R51 Apologies

Received from Cllr Hall for late arrival.

R52 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.

R53 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2015 as a correct record and they were duly signed.

R54 Chairman's Announcements

Castle Mound – The Chairman reported that the Committee would be considering a proposal for improvements at its meeting on 5th January 2016.

Verges – It was reported that the Town Council was in discussion with Dorset County Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement for the Town Council to cut some of the verges. It was noted that some of the areas would be planted with wildflowers.

Maltings Play Area – The Chairman reported that there had been a delay in installation of the play equipment at The Maltings but it was hoped that this would be completed soon.

Mampitts Lane – It was reported that the Committee Chair had begun to look at proposals for play areas and allotments along Mampitts Lane. It was noted that there was £120,000 s.106 monies available for these projects.

Donkey Field Orchard – The Chairman expressed concern that the areas of the Orchard appeared to be neglected.

Cockrams – It was reported that there was frequently broken glass on the basketball court at Cockrams and consideration was being given to change the entrance to the court and improve it to make it a more accessible facility.

R55 Tree Applications

Officer Report 1115ROSE05 was received. The Committee **RESOLVED** to submit the following observations on the remaining applications to North Dorset District Council:

Reference	Address	Detail
2/2015/1437/CATREE	1 French Mill Lane Shaftesbury	T1 – Yew – Fell T2 – Katsura – Crown reduce by 4m (20%) and crown thin by 15% Work carried out for Tree Management
Committee Observation: The Committee endorsed the views of the Tree Group and did not object to the removal of the Yew however expressed a preference for a less drastic crown reduction and thinning for the Katsura.		
2/2015/1523/CATREE	7 Parsons Pool Shaftesbury	T1 – Ash – Reduce the crown back to a semi pollard, by 3m T2 – Birch – Reduce the crown by 2m to a formative shape
Committee Observation: As the trees were not visible from the road the Committee declined to comment.		

Reference	Address	Detail
2/2015/1524/CATREE	21 French Mill Lane Shaftesbury	T1 – Silver Birch – Crown reduce by up to 2m in height and by up to 1m lateral spread and reshape. Client would like to gain more light to the front of the property.
Committee Observation: The Committee endorsed the comments of the tree group and objected to the proposed work.		
2/2015/1589/CATREE	The Chantry St James Street Shaftesbury	T1 – Willow – pollard over large Willow to improve view now obscured. The Willow stands in a large mixed copse of trees and is not a significant tree of any merit.
Committee Observation: The Committee deferred observation pending receipt of comments from the Tree Group.		
2/2015/1590/CATREE	100 St James Street Shaftesbury	T1 – Ash – Remove 5 branches at about a height of 5-7m. Crown raise and lift to approx.. 8m. We would not be taking a significant number of branches, nor large branches, just clearing the low-hanging branches that are obstructing other trees.
Committee Observation: The Committee deferred observation pending receipt of comments from the Tree Group.		
2/2015/1673/CATREE	St John's Cottage, 27 Tanyard Lane, Shaftesbury	T1 (A) - Ash - Pollard tree. T2 (B) - Unspecified - Fell, as appears to be dead; it has damaged a wall and could hinder the treatment of some Japanese Knotweed. T3 (C) - Ash - Fell as close the neighbouring properties. (House No. 25, 27 and 29). T4 (D) - Leylandii hedge - Remove as in poor condition and replace with a timber fence.
Committee Observation: The Committee deferred observation pending receipt of comments from the Tree Group.		

R56 Ash Close Play Area

Officer Report 1115ROSE06 was received, the Chairman then provided an update following a site visit. It was noted that the slide was a safety hazard and to be removed from the site, the metal section to be put into storage. It was **AGREED** to put tape around the top of the slide and to replace the slide. The office were requested not replace the top part of the slide. A further report would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

R57 Barton Hill Play Equipment

Report 1115ROSE07 was received. The Committee viewed the draft proposals for additional sports equipment at Barton Hill and **AGREED** to proceed with obtaining additional quotations for additional and replacement sports equipment at Barton Hill Recreation Ground.

Cllr George Hall arrives.

R58 Swimming Pool

The Officer's Report 1115ROSE08 was received. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the General Management Committee consider the purchase of a replacement swimming pool blanket and solar panels. It was **AGREED** to request assistance from the Shaftesbury and District Task Force for grant funding. The Committee considered options for a giant inflatable and expressed a preference in a music themed inflatable that would be gender neutral.

R59 Window Boxes

Officer Report 1115ROSE10 was received and noted. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase replacement brackets and window boxes (Galvenised Steel Zinc Window box black matt option 3.4 a was selected) for the Town Hall as detailed at option a in the report. (*Financial implication £250 Town Hall maintenance budget*)

R60 St John's Churchyard

Officer report 1115ROSE11 was received and the management plan contained therein was **AGREED** including obtaining quotes for reducing the ash tree.

R61 Playground Inspection

Officer report 1115ROSE12 was received and noted. Concern was expressed at the reliability of the Inspection Report which informed the Officer Report and it was **RESOLVED** to reject the report and ask that the Head Groundsman carried out an urgent Health and Safety Inspection on all Shaftesbury Town Council play areas. It was **AGREED** to prepare playground signs in-house as laminated signs; saving £400-£500; the new Slide Hand Rail was not to be purchased; saving £900-£1000; The new Swing Barriers were not to be purchased – it was **AGREED** to move one of the Swing Barriers to replace the damaged Swing Barrier. The damaged Swing Barriere is to be disposed of, thus saving £562. Therefore, it was **AGREED** that the £1,895 savings made to be added to the Capital Playground Equipment budget to be purchased at Ash Close Play Area.

R62 Correspondence

The Chairman's report 1115ROSE13 was received and noted. 3.1 It was **AGREED** to respond to the correspondence regarding bees advising that the Town Council was already working to provide bee friendly areas and suggest that the author may be interested in joining one of the volunteer groups in Shaftesbury to get more involved. 3.2 It was **AGREED** to seek the views of the Civic Society regarding disabled access to Park Walk via the kissing gate at Magdalene Lane and refer back to the committee as appropriate. 3.3 It was **AGREED** in principle to support the request for access via St James' Park with consideration also being given by the General Management Committee regarding the legal implications.

R63 Brionne Garden

The Chairman spoke to this item. It was considered that the garden was not in the best position as a garden and that the location gave potential for provision of affordable housing. It was considered that Brionne Garden could be relocated to the land adjacent to Jeanneau Close. Further investigation was required in consideration of these matters.

R64 Officer Report

Officer Report 1115ROSE14 was received and noted.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50

Signed

Date

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