

**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 19th July 2016 commencing at 7:00pm.

Members Present:

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Francis
Councillor R Tippins

Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Todd

Officers Present:

Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer

In Attendance:

Five 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 items were raised;

- Friends of the Donkey Field Community Orchard. Expressed desire to see a different model for the Community Orchard such as the example provided by Bridport Town Council. Intend to provide the Town Council with a report documenting the history of the orchard, confirmation of achievements against the previous management plan and draft management plan for the next ten years.

R11 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from the Head Groundsman due to ill health.

R12 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

R13 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2016 as a correct record. The minutes were duly signed.

R14 Chairman's announcements

Thanks were given to Shaftesbury in Bloom for its tidying up the clumps of grass on the roundabouts.

R15 Head Groundsman's Update

Groundsman Andrew Flitcroft introduced himself to the Committee as the newest member of the Grounds team. He highlighted the issue of litter at Barton Hill, roughly calculating an annual cost of £680 in time spent clearing it up. Consideration was given to strategies to address the situation for further debate during the budget setting process.

R16 Castle Hill Management Plan

Officer report 16ROSE06 was received. It was reported that the current Service Level Agreement was between NDDC and the Countryside Rangers. The Committee was concerned that it appeared that no work had been carried out on Castle Hill this summer and the bracken was out of control. It was **AGREED** that officers check the status of Management Plan and the Rangers maintenance work. It was also recommended that the management plan include bracken to be cut back to more than 20% in compartment 4 and cut the grass on the mound 6 or 7 times per year to accentuate the mound

R17 Jubilee Path

Officer Report 0716ROSE07 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the plan contained within the report and delegate £5,000 to officers to obtain quotes and work in consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair on elements 1, 2 and 3 of the plan. *(Financial Implication – up to £5,000 Jubilee Path Improvements Budget)*

R18 Donkey Field Orchard

Officer Report 0716ROSE08 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to grant a temporary licence and delegate upto £250 to officers for legal fees to subsequently prepare a 5-year licence with option to continue with a supporting 5-year management plan. The licence to be based on the licence used for Bridport's Community Orchard by Bridport Town Council. It was **AGREED** with the Friends of the Donkey Orchard that they will provide the Town Council with their plan and draft agreement for the Licence by end of Sept 2016 *(Financial Implication - £250 Legal and Professional fees).*

R19 Planting

Officer Report 0716ROSE09 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate £1,000 to officers to purchase approximately 12 pole mounted planters with a water reservoir for light columns all the way down Park Walk and two outside Town Hall. Choice of seasonal planting to be determined by the Grounds Team to be 'Bee-Friendly' and last into October. It was **AGREED** that Town Gateway would be planned for the next year, the design to be similar to the Gillingham Town Gateway sign.

R20 Weed control

Officer Report 0716ROSE10 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a Weed Ripper and two Weed Wands for improved weed control in Shaftesbury Town Council maintained areas. *(Financial Implications - £3,619 Grounds Equipment Reserves)*

R21 Shaftesbury's Play and Recreation Grounds

Officer Report 0716ROSE11 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to not replace the slide at Wincombe Recreation Ground and as a matter of urgency, remove the wooden feet at the base of the previous slide and make safe the platform section at the top of its location. It was **RESOLVED** to carry out all other repair items identified within the report.

It was **AGREED** to obtain quotes in the approximate budget of £6,500 for a new free-standing high slide (approx. 2M high) with grass safety matting for older children at Ash Close play area to be referred to Full Council.

The Chair updated the Committee on a site visit with the Head Groundsman confirmed that Cockrams Play Area It was **RESOLVED** to move the entrance to the basketball court at Cockrams to the site of the play equipment, bricking up the previous entrance and to paint the goal posts on the wall and paint the existing basketball posts white for safety. It was **AGREED** that Cllr J Francis would consult with the Youth Club and that work would be undertaken as a priority by the Grounds Team. (*Financial Implication – £0 within the routine grounds maintenance programme*)

It was **RESOLVED** to award the contract for painting the play equipment (excluding the spiders web) at Ash Close subject to confirmation that it would be completed before the end of September 2016. (*Financial Implication up to £900 Playground Repairs and Maintenance*).

It was **AGREED** that consideration be given to redesigning and re-equipping Wincombe Recreation Ground as part of the budget setting process.

R22 Officer Report

Officer report 0716ROSE12 was received, the following matters were **AGREED**;

Gold Hill. Officers to look at solutions for keeping it presentable in conjunction with Dorset County Council.

Gold Hill Wall. Officers to seek guidance from Heritage England regarding weed control at the top of Gold Hill Wall and in particular the use of the Flame Wands.

R23 Future Meetings of the Committee

Officer Report 0716ROSE13 was received and noted. It was confirmed that the primary business for the next meeting would be budget considerations.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:10pm

Signed

Date

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