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**MINUTES OF PROPERTY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Philippa Biddlecombe (Chair), Bob Gilbey, Judi Morison, Penny Steiner and Rob Worth.

**Clerk:** Lisa Davis

**The meeting started at 19:00**

**2021**

**PI01 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Margaret Bebbington, Nick Crowley, Fares Moussa and Pek Peppin

**PI02 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest (these must be declared BEFORE the agenda items concerned are discussed. Persons with a declared pecuniary interest must leave the meeting room when these are discussed).**

There were no declarations of interest.

**PI03 Minutes of Property & Infrastructure Committee meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May be approved, subject to an amendment to be signed by the Chair at a later time.

**PI04 Action points from previous meetings:**

Wildflower areas – a response is awaited from SSDC regarding the recording of information. It was agreed that Philippa Biddlecombe would speak to the Deputy Clerk about contacting SSDC again.

**ACTION 210726/1: Philippa Biddlecombe/Deputy Clerk**

**PI05 Infrastructure:**

- a) **Update on pavements** – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that a meeting would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> August.
- b) **Update on highway access outside The Market Garden, High Street** - Philippa Biddlecombe reported that following a meeting with Gary Warren from Somerset County Council it had been agreed that two of the bollards would be removed to provide improved access for pedestrians.
- c) **To discuss improvements and accessibility to the Church** – Judi Morison gave an update on the accessibility issues and proposed improvements at the Church. It was agreed to check the responsibility for redundant churchyards.

**ACTION 210726/2: Town Clerk**

**PI06 Properties – Pavilion and Donald Pither Memorial Field**

- a) **Update on Basketball Pitch** – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the fencing works are due to be completed within the next week
- b) **Update on vandalised roundabout and toilets at Donald Pither Field** - Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the roundabout had been made safe and the CCTV footage passed to the Police.
- c) **Fairfield update report** – the Council received an update report from Penny Steiner who confirmed that the Friends of Fairfield are meeting on 10 August. It was agreed that the grass cutting and collection needs to be completed before the Fun on the Field event on 30 August. The Town Clerk

would contact SLR and Judi Morison would approach local farmers about an initial cut and collection of grass.

**ACTION 210726/3: Town Clerk/Judi Morison**

**PI07 Market House:**

- a) **To discuss improving access at the Market House** – it was agreed that a proposal would be presented at the next Full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August.
- b) **To discuss improved storage at the Market House** – it was agreed that Philippa Biddlecombe would ask Mike Stokes to get prices and drawings for the proposed improved storage in the Undercroft.
- c) **Update on display of Cary in 21 objects and progress of works in the Billiard Room** – Pek Peppin circulated an update report in advance of the meeting.
- d) **To consider renting space on the Cobbles for Coffee Shop customers to use** – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the Council had received some interest in renting space on the Cobbles to enable tables to be used for drinks.

**RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to recommend that space is offered to rent at a daily rate at the next Full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August.**

**PI1 Cemetery and Chapel**

- a) **Update on Owl box at the Cemetery** – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the owl box is in place and has a pair of red kites nesting.
- b) **To discuss possible purchase of a Freedom Beehive** – it was agreed to include this in the MTIG Environment Projects funding application to SSDC
- c) **To discuss the re-painting of the exterior woodwork at the Cemetery Chapel** - it was agreed to look at the condition of the woodwork and decide what repair/re-painting works are needed

**Action 210726/4: Philippa Biddlecombe/Bob Gilbey**

- d) **To discuss the three quotes for the Cemetery Drive**

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to recommend that the quote from C & G Tarmac Servicing is accepted at the next Full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August.**

**PI09 Toilets/Car Park – Millbrook**

- a) **Update on Community larder and the letting of the empty unit at the Hub** – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the Community Larder is well used and positive feedback received from those donating and collecting. Judi Morison thanked everyone who had been involved so far including the volunteers, local shops and members of the community who had donated items. Now that planning consent has been granted for the building it was agreed to advertise the empty unit. Philippa Biddlecombe and Judi Morison would arrange for the space to be measured and photos taken. The Town Clerk would follow up any additional consent required from SSDC to let the space.

**Action 210726/5: Philippa Biddlecombe/Judi Morison**

**Action 210726/6: Town Clerk**

**PI10 Planting of baby oak trees**

- a) **To consider planting of baby oak trees in the town** – it was agreed to write a letter of thanks but advise that there is nowhere suitable to plant these trees on Town Council owned land.

**Action 210726/7: Town Clerk**

**PI11 Drinking Fountain**

- a) **Update on proposed drinking fountain project for the Platinum Jubilee** – Philippa Biddlecombe gave an update on the project and it was agreed that it was no longer feasible to progress this for the Platinum Jubilee due to the time and cost implications.

**The meeting ended at 21:00**

*Members of the Council considered the following matters in the exercise of its functions, that “No member of the public, job applicant, elected member or employee shall receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, sexual orientation, marital status or disability”*

**The next meeting of the Properties and Infrastructure Committee will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**