

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held at The Bowman Centre
on 19th December 2023 at 7.15pm

PRESENT: Cllr J Swindlehurst (Chair), Cllr R Yuill, Cllr S Hedge, Cllr M Strange, Cllr Buchanon,

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs SJ Tucker (Town Clerk)

VISITING PUBLIC: 2

	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>With the Committees's approval, the Chairman moved item 7 – Bonnymead Rec Lights to Public Questions as 2 members of Amesbury Town Football Club were in attendance in relation to this Agenda Item.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Football Club informed the Town Council of the increased electricity costs at the Club which include 6 x Town Council lights. In 2019 the cost was 11.8p per Kw, rising to 14.5p in 2020, in 2023 it increased to 50.2p. Committee members at the Club have paid out of their own pockets to offset an £8000 electricity bill and are now paying £200 per month to ensure costs are met. The 6 x lights use 9Kw of electricity, these are set to come on at dusk and go off at dawn, 365 days per year, this costs on average £4.50 per day. The Football Club cannot afford to keep paying for these lights and so at present they are switched off until an agreement can be reached with the Town Council. The Town Council paid £100 to the Club in May 2019 for electricity costs and a further £300 in 2023 to take into account the previous 3 years it had not contributed.</p> <p>The Committee was in agreement that this needed looking into and that the Club should not have to pay for the electricity for these lights. Cllr Swindlehurst suggested having a separate metre to separate the lights from the main Club electricity. Cllr Buchanen requested that the Club submit its bills along with proof of committee payments to the Clerk Town to review. Once this information was received it would be submitted to Full Council for consideration.</p> <p>1. To receive apologies for absence Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr T Edwards (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Hagger, Cllr I Mitchell, Cllr J Jaconiah</p> <p>2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 27th November 2023 Approved.</p> <p>3. To receive Declarations of interest from members None received.</p> <p>4. Councillors' questions/statements 4.1 Cllr Strange reiterated the requirement for a Community Shop post the end of the current lease, the Council should look to identify a suitable location. This would be added as an Agenda Item to the next Full Council Meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
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5.	<p>Clerk's Update – All grit bins identified on the map provided at the last meeting have been checked and are correct. Town Council bins have been filled, there is an additional bin in the gardens of Princess Way, presumably left over by Bloor Homes that has also been filled. The Bowman Centre curtains are due to be cleaned in the New Year and then rehung. The Finger Signs in the Town Centre have had the Aviation Centre covered over. It wasn't possible to remove these signs as they also pointed to other buildings of interest in the Town. I had a meeting with a representative from a play park provider to guide me through the Tender process for the new play parks, I'm now awaiting some templates/examples and guides from the company. We will soon be in receipt of the funds (over £700k) for the installation and future upkeep of the play parks.</p> <p>Cllr Hedge asked if any finger signs were being replaced. The Clerk informed him that a survey would be required to determine the information currently on the signs and any new places that need adding.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>Report from the Events Committee Meeting held on 7th December – in the absence of Cllr Jaconiah, the Clerk summarised the Minutes from the meeting, which included feedback from the King's Coronation Event that was cancelled due to bad weather/poor conditions at Bonnymead Rec and the successful Summer Event. It also discussed the Town Council's resources compared to that of organisations such as the Stonehenge Chamber for putting on large scale events. The Committee would be making recommendations to Full Council in January.</p>	
7.	<p>Items for review:</p> <p>7.1 Harvard Way and Bonnymead Rec – Cllr Edwards had provided a report of his visit to the parks with Cllr Strange and the local Police to discuss security requirements. All councillors agreed the importance of securing both areas from unauthorised vehicular access. Cllr Buchanen proposed that a survey and quotes be carried out for the required work to prevent incursions, to then be put these forward to the Full Council, this was seconded by Cllr Swindlehurst and agreed by the Committee. The Clerk explained that there was funding available in EMR CIL Reserve 2019/20.</p> <p>7.2 Ground Maintenance Contract – In the absence of Cllr Edwards, the Clerk provided details of the recent review which included a visit to the majority of Council land maintained by the current contractor. New areas are to be added to the current rolling contract, these are green spaces recently adopted by the Town Council. Wild flowing planting to enhance biodiversity was discussed for the Country Park, along with the overdue cut of this area which has now been completed. At the request of Cllr Buchanen, the Clerk is to check on the number of cuts contracted for the Country Park and if this is more than one, other ad hoc areas should be offset by this work not being conducted by the contractor.</p> <p>7.3 ByWay 20 Self Help – Cllr Yuill reported that work is due to commence in January, having discussed the condition of the ByWay with WC and Bloor</p>	Clerk

8.	<p>Homes. This will be dependent on availability of machinery, personnel and the weather. Cllr Yuill is trying to determine to what standard it will be done to having referred to the original plans for it being for pedestrians and cycles.</p> <p>7.4 Boscombe Down Playing Fields – Cllr Yuill provided a brief update, he remains the point of contact in relation to this and is lobbying Wiltshire Council and local MPs for their support.</p> <p>7.5 Lord’s Walk 2024 dates – There is a requirement to close Lord’s Walk for a 24hr period annually. At present this is from dusk on Christmas Eve to dusk on Christmas Day, this is kindly done by Councillors. The Clerk suggested that if it was a mid-week day in winter the staff could do the closure and re-opening. Cllr Hedge proposed the last Tuesday of November, this was seconded by Cllr Buchanen, with the committee all in agreement. This recommendation will be passed to Full Council in January.</p> <p>7.6 Mosquito Alarm Complaint – The Town Council is in receipt of an ongoing complaint by a resident living near to the Pavilion in relation to the effects on his family from the Mosquito Alarms installed at the Pavilion. The Clerk explained that she had met with the resident and confirmed that when the alarms were on they could be heard/felt by the resident on the veranda of the Pavilion but not inside it. The resident stated that he was however able to sense the alarm in his property and provided a recording of the Khz difference between no alarm being on and alarm on. Cllr Buchanen suggested some acoustic mats at the Pavilion to deaden the sound beyond it. Cllr Yuill also suggested contact Wiltshire Public Protection who may be able to assist. The Clerk will research the acoustic mats, which aren’t costly to purchase.</p> <p>7.7 Flag Pole Quotes – The quotes were reviewed, the Committee was in agreement that the HFC quote should be put forward to Full Council for agreement in January. The caretakers should be able to remove the current pole on the side of the Bowman Centre, so the cost of the quote will reduce slightly.</p> <p>7.8 Central Car Park Toilet Cleaning Contract – 3 quotes were provided to the Committee (2 of which were confirmed quotes one of which was an estimate). Cllr Strange proposed that the middle priced quote should be recommended to the Full Council in January. This was seconded by Cllr Yuill, with all the Committee in agreement.</p> <p>Items for next Agenda:</p> <p>Community Shop Bonnymead Rec ByWay 20 Boscombe Down Rec</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 7.15pm on 20th February 2024.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs</p> <p>Cllrs</p>
9.	<p>The meeting closed at 8.40pm</p>	<p>Cllrs</p>

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