

Amesbury Town Council
Minutes of the Projects' Committee Meeting
Monday 19th February 2024
At 7.00pm in the Bowman Centre

Present: Cllr A Hagger (Chair), Cllr J Swindlehurst (Deputy Chair), Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr M Strange, Cllr S Hedge

In Attendance: Mrs SJ Tucker (Town Clerk)

Visiting Public: 0

Public Questions

There were no public questions

15/2024. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr T Edwards, Cllr A Buchanan MBE, Cllr D Kuczera

16/2024. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 15th January 2024.

The Minutes were approved

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr J Swindlehurst

Resolved

17/2024. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members

No Declarations of Interest were received.

18/2024. Progress reports arising from the last meeting were received as follows:

18.01.2024 Wiltshire Town's Programme - AH

An inception meeting was held with the LGRC who will prepare an inclusive consultation across residents and businesses in the Town, this will highlight what the Town sees as important and will enable the TC to have a strategy to deliver for the future. Councillors want to make sure that the Town attracts Tourism, efforts should be made to enable the Stonehenge Bus Tour to stop in the Town. Cllr S Hedge suggested that a meeting of the Tourism Working Group was required. Cllr A Hagger also suggested a presentation by Steve Milton from the LGRC to the Committee about the work we would be doing together.

18.02.2024 Bonnymead Refurbishment – DK

The Clerk provided the rates and information relating to a PWLB as there are no funds to fully fund this project from within the Town Council's current EMR and/or General Reserves. As she was explaining the finances, Cllr A Hagger suggested that councillors in general needed training to understand the finances.

Cllr D Kuczera thought that approx. £750k would be required for the refurbishment of the Rec which included the relocation of the exercise equipment, the installation of mini golf

and the resurfacing of the car park. Given the costs and work involved and not knowing the history of the Bonnymead refurbishment requirement, Cllr A Hagger suggested that this be added as an Agenda item at the next Full Council meeting to discuss, prioritise and resource accordingly.

The Mayor suggested that a Project Manager should be considered to support office staff in delivering a number of Projects that the Town Council has in the pipeline that current resources cannot sustain/have enough knowledge to undertake. This should be passed to the Staffing Committee to review and make any recommendations to Full Council.

18.03.2024 New Play Areas – Clerk

The clerk is in contact with a play park company to get advice on tender preparation. She is also in contact with Wiltshire Council over discrepancies in the S106 Side Agreement as the play park maps do not match the developers maps or where the TC believes the parks are to be built.

18.04.2024 Compostable Toilets – Clerk

There has been no progression in relation to this. 3 quotes have previously been provided but the Committee needs to understand the best location, security and maintenance requirements. The Clerk was asked to contact the companies to get more information.

18.05.2024 Council Yard – DK

The Clerk is waiting to discuss a draft tender document with Cllr D Kuczera.

18.06.2024 Pavilion Storage Unit – Mayor/Clerk

The Mayor explained that the Men's Shed Group that has been set up is now meeting regularly and is looking for a location for their meetings to take place. The Committee felt that as a TC Project for Health and Wellbeing the Group could have access at no cost to a meeting room in the Bowman Centre or the Pavilion on a monthly basis. This was proposed by Cllr A Hagger and seconded by Cllr J Swindlehurst.

The Mayor explained that the tender submission date had now passed and 3 x tenders had been received for the values of £333,050, £294,977 and £415,209. The quotes are significantly higher than the original budget of £170k. The lowest quote would require the TC to fund the additional £125k. The Clerk was asked if there are funds in the EMR or General Reserve for this. EMR CIL Reserve 337 and 338 may be an option, the Finance Committee is due to meet and discuss EMRs on 23rd February, so can be discussed at this meeting. The Clerk is also waiting for the architects to return their review of the tenders for the Council to consider, the most expensive tender has been removed from the review given the cost.

18.07.2024 Accessible Play Areas – MS

Cllr M Strange had provided some examples of sensory play equipment and is awaiting a catalogue. The Clerk advised that the tender for this play park would be best included in the New Play Parks to manage as one complete tender.

18.08.2024 Lord's Walk Benches – SH

Cllr S Hedge highlighted that this item has now been moved to the Amenities Committee for discussion.

18.09.2024 Disability Audit – AH

The Wiltshire Town's Fund consultation will take this into consideration during its work. Cllr A Hagger will invite Cllr L Knight to the next meeting to explain some of the difficulties encountered for those with disabilities in the Town.

18.10.2024 Bowman Centre Audio/Visual - DK

The Clerk provided some feedback following the streaming of the last Full Council meeting from members of the public and some councillors. Whilst for some it was a step in the right direction, the equipment in place did not provide the streaming to a professional standard, with poor quality vision and audio. The Clerk was waiting for Cllr D Kuczera to produce a SOR for equipment that could do this effectively, in order to get quotes. The question of suitability of the Bowman Centre to hold Full Council meetings was discussed, given the poor audio quality, as a result of the high ceilings and the potential costs involved to mitigate this. The Committee suggested the use of Antrobus House, a venue previously used by the TC. The Mayor would approach them to find out availability and associated costs in order to report back to Full Council.

19/2024. Items for the next Agenda – the items listed at 18/2024 would be rolled over to the next meeting for further updates.

20/2024. Date of next meeting: Monday 18th March at 7.00pm

The meeting closed 8pm.