

**Amesbury Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Amenities' Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday 19th March 2024**  
**At 7.15pm in the Bowman Centre**

**Present:** Cllr J Swindlehurst (Chair), Cllr T Edwards (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Hagger, Cllr I Mitchell, Cllr S Hedge, Cllr R Yuill

**In Attendance:** Mrs SJ Tucker (Town Clerk)

**Visiting Public:** 1

**Public Questions**

The Clerk read out questions from a resident relating to the following:

Is the Council and/or the resident/company van owner going to be making good the worst of the damage caused by the van driving on grass near the Sundial.

Would the Council be replacing the missing bollards at Kilford Close, Holloway Drive and Shears Drive.

Would the Council consider putting up pedestrian only type signs at the main points of unauthorised vehicle access by the sundial.

Would the Council consider asking a few residents to join them on a site walk given their knowledge of the area and their concerns.

A second resident, present at the meeting raised similar issues, stressing the importance of pedestrian safety in areas that aren't intended for vehicular access, residents were looking to apply their own temporary solutions if the problems continue.

The Chair stated that a site meeting has been arranged for 9am on 20<sup>th</sup> March to address the very issues raised and the residents were invited to attend. The Chair informed the resident that there would likely be some quick wins to mitigate the problem through planters/bollards and some measure would require a longer-term plan.

**09/2024. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr A Buchanan MBE, Cllr J Jaconiah and Cllr M Strange.

**10/2024. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Proposed: Cllr I Mitchell

Seconded: Cllr Hedge

**Resolved**

**11/2024. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

## **12/2024. Councillors' questions and statements**

Cllr Yuill noted that the war memorial was in need of a clean, Remembrance crosses also needed removing from some graves in Recreation Road Cemetery. These would be added to the Caretaker's jobs' list.

Cllr Mitchell asked if any signs were needed at Armistice Park where fencing has been removed to highlight there is a berm in place to avoid trips.. The Clerk suggested the Risk Assessments were checked and updated where required.

Cllr Hedge had produced a report on the bins at Recreation Road Cemetery which appear to be sufficient. The condition of the bins will be monitored.

Cllr Hedge also asked if once the Men's Shed was built would it become a Council asset. The Clerk informed him that there would be lease for the Chairty and it would be added to the asset register.

Cllr Edwards asked if the CWGC had been maintaining the graves in Recreation Road Cemetery, the Clerk would look into this.

Cllr Edwards suggested that the tree trunks left near to the Skate Park could be made into benches for use in Lynchets Field. One of our tree contractors may also have access to some that they could carve into benches. The Clerk would look into this.

Cllr Edwards asked if the layby on the A345 had been cleared of fly tipping/rubbish. Cllr Yuill would pursue this with Wiltshire Council. Cllr Edwards suggested that if Wiltshire Council did not want to maintain the land they could hand it over to the TC.

## **13/2024. Clerk's update from the last meeting:**

The Clerk reported that the height barrier for Bonnymead Park is now on order.

The Town Council has settled the payment for the lights at at Bonnymead Park with Amesbury Town Football Club and she was awaiting a quote from the electricians for a sub metre to be installed so that the TC can determine their usage of electricity from the main supply used by the Football Club to ensure the TC pays its part of future bills incurred by the Club.

The caretaking team have clean have cleared the rubbish in the copse opposite Lidl.

## **14/2024. Items for review/update reports**

### **14.01/2024 Grounds' Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk stated that Bawdens were helping to update the maintenance maps in preparation for a new tender to be prepared later in the year.

The cricket team is concerned about the condition of its playing area ahead of their season. The Clerk is to contact the contractor and ask for works to be completed such as rolling, weed removal and seeding. Given the amount of teams using the sports field it is becoming difficult to conduct the required maintenance and provide a suitable playing surface for the cricket team. The Clerk was looking into options/suitability for a football pitch at Bonnymead Rec to reduce the amount of pitches at Centenary Park to alleviate the issues on the cricket table and outfield.

#### **14.02/2024      ByWay 20**

Work has commenced on fencing along the ByWay but no work yet on the pathway itself although the contract for the remedial works has been awarded.

#### **14.03/2024      Boscombe Down Playing Fields**

Cllr Yuill explained the long and complicated process to where we are now, including the background and years of work to try and acquire the fields, including registering them as a Community Asset. The last letter received by the TC in January suggested the legal process for the disposal of the MoD owned fields would begin in Spring. He would contact the MoD again to see what their position is given its Spring.

#### **14.04/2024      Community Shop**

In light of the Community Shop lease ending in December, the Committee discussed what the Shop provides in terms of a place for its volunteers to meet, the public to get information and purchase second hand goods such as books/DVDs along with the costs associated with the lease/bills etc - do the benefits for what appears to be a small group of people (volunteers and members of the public) offset the costs involved.

The Committee therefore proposed the following Agenda Item to Full Council as follows:

'Should the Town Council continue to fund a Community Shop post December when the lease ends'

Proposer: Cllr Edwards

Seconded: Cllr Hagger

**Resolved**

#### **14.05/2024      Lord's Walk Benches**

The Committee approved the purchase of 2 x benches at a cost of £1727 to include installation. This would be financed through CIL Reserves 19/20 as approved by Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Hedge

Seconded: Cllr Edwards

**Resolved**

#### **14.06/2024      Bowman Centre Chairs and Tables**

The Committee reviewed the quotes for chairs and tables, it approved the purchase of 125 new banqueting chairs at a maximum cost of £7125 and 14 round tables at a maximum cost of £2450. Funding for this was approved by Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 through the CIL Reserve 19/20. The committee thought there was no requirement for new rectangular tables at present.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards

Seconded: Cllr Hagger

**Resolved**

**14.07/2024 Allotment Update**

The Operations' Manager had produced a report which had been circulated to Councillors.

**14.08/2024 Cemeteries Update**

The Clerk had produced a report which had been circulated to Councillors.

The Committee approved the issue of retrospective EROB (Exclusive Rights of Burial) at no cost should this be required/requested.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards

Seconded: Cllr Mitchell

**Resolved**

**14.09/2024 Christmas Tree**

The Committee approved the purchase and installation of a 25ft Nordman Fir Christmas Tree (by the same provider as Dec 2023) at a cost of £1824.

Proposed by: Cllr A Hagger

Seconded by: Cllr T Edwards

**Resolved**

**15/2024. Items for the next Agenda**

All regular items to be rolled over as required. Cllr Edwards asked for the 'Tree Trunk' benches to be added.

**16/2024. Date of next meeting is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.15pm**

The meeting closed 9.15pm.