



Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee**

held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.00pm

at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillors R Mayo (Chairman), C Bennett, C Gray, D Lister, D Ravenscroft and C Utting,
Ex-officio: Councillor N Gibbs

In attendance: Mrs S Robson – Town Clerk
There were four members of the public present and no members of the press

A18/04#28 Apologies for Absence

[Local Government Act 1972 s85 \(1\)](#)

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

None received

A18/04#29 Declarations of Interest

[Local Authorities \(Model Code of Conduct\)](#)

To receive any declaration of Councillors' interests.

None

A18/04#30 Dispensations

To receive any written dispensations from Councillors declaring an interest.

None

A18/04#31 Public Participation

A member of the public addressed the Committee regarding concerns relating to a new structure that has been put on the allotments site and the perceived risk of danger from fire due to the fuel being stored there.

A representative of the Allotment Association addressed the Committee about this issue and apologised for not approaching the Council prior to its installation. The Members were advised that existing storage sheds are very small and therefore the new shed would provide more space for equipment and to enable work to be carried out inside. The Committee was advised of the intention to create a fire proof storage facility away from the mobile homes to alleviate any perceived risk.

It was agreed the Clerk would liaise with both parties to draw the matter to a mutually acceptable conclusion.

7.15pm Members of the public left the meeting.

A18/04#32 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public

[Public Bodies \(Admission to Meetings\) Act 1960](#)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

A18/04#33 Amenities Committee Meeting - Minutes

[Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 Para 41\(1\)](#)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018 be signed as a correct record.

A18/04#34 Action Review Summary

To receive and review Outstanding Actions Summary

Members received an update on a number of outstanding items. It was agreed to amend the sheet and remove some of them as either being obsolete or due to having specific items already on the agenda.

Noted

A18/04#35 Finance

- i) To receive and note the current budget report

The Committee was thanked for working hard on keeping within budget over the year.

Noted

- ii) To approve expenditure of a maximum of £400 to clear a blockage in the pipe leading to the river at the embankment at Wye Street/Long Acre from the Grounds Maintenance budget

Proposed: Councillor Gibbs
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Gray

RESOLVED – to authorise expenditure of £400.00 from the Grounds Maintenance Budget for the Parish Lengthsman to carry out the work to clear the blockage in the drainage pipe.

A18/04#36 St Mary's Churchyard

To resolve to put in a planning application to Herefordshire Council to remove an overgrown fir tree by the Plague Cross in the Closed Churchyard.

RESOLVED – to approve submission of planning application for the removal of the overgrown fir tree in St Mary's Churchyard.

A18/04#37 Section 106 monies

To receive notification from Herefordshire Council of Section 106 monies paid in respect of the Rosswyn and consider its use at the Rope Walk Play Area and Riverside Park.

Noted

A18/04#38 Ropewalk Playground

To consider the next steps in renewing the Rope Walk Playground

Members were reminded of the Play Project that had been set up by parents some years ago. The Chairman advised that fundraising by the Group had proved difficult for a variety of reasons. Consultation had previously taken place which helped develop ideas about what would be preferred. The Committee noted that an anticipated budget in the region of £50k would be required to make this a destination play area.

RESOLVED - to set up a Working Group with Councillors Bennett, Mayo and Lister. The Council Members were given authority to invite other interested parties to join the Working Group. The remit of the Group would be to work on drawing up a guidance and specification document for approval by the Committee.

A18/04#39 Parking on the Rope Walk

To consider how to prevent continued parking at the entrance to the Rope Walk

This has been an historic problem which has caused the grass to be churned up and spoils the visual amenity of the area. It was noted remedial action had already been taken with the installation of wooden bollards and a bin, which have given partial relief to the problem. The area could be further improved by planting on the verges and the gates could be closed providing there was adequate signage warning of closure without notice.

RESOLVED – to write a further letter to Herefordshire Housing asking that residents are reminded not to park there and in the interim further signage should be considered if this proves unsuccessful. U3A would also be invited to improve the area with a wildflower planting scheme at the verges.

7.50pm Councillor Ravenscroft left the meeting

A18/04#40 AONB Joint Advisory Committee

To receive and note a copy of letter to Cllr Cutter as Chair of the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee from the Welsh Government.

Noted

A18/04#41 Blake Gardens

To consider engaging a surveyor to look at the infra-structure at the Blake Gardens (notably the retaining walls) following concerns of the volunteers who work there.

7.52 pm Councillor Utting declared a Schedule 2 Interest being a Committee Member of the Blake Garden group and left the meeting.

The Clerk was authorised to spend up to £500.00 to instruct a Surveyor.

Proposed: Councillor Bennett
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Gibbs

RESOLVED – to authorise a maximum of £500.00 to instruct a surveyor to draft a condition report to allow the Committee to discuss and programme possible works.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.54pm

..... Chairman

Date