



Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee
held on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 7.00pm
at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillors R Mayo (Chairman) N Gibbs, D Lister, P Symonds and J Utting
Ex-officio Members: Councillor H Bramer, Councillor V Coker

In attendance: Mrs S Robson – Town Clerk, Miss A Partridge – Administration and Finance Assistant

A18/09#65 Apologies for Absence
Councillor R Gibbs

RESOLVED – to accept apologies given

A18/09#66 Declarations of Interest
None

A18/09#67 Dispensations
None

A18/09#68 Public Participation
None

A18/09#69 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public
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.

No confidential items for discussion

A18/09#70 Amenities Committee Meeting - Minutes
To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018.

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 be signed as a correct record.

A18/09#71 Action Review Summary
To receive and review outstanding Actions Summary.
Members received an update on a number of outstanding items.

It was agreed to defer going ahead with the Grit Bin policy until further information could be obtained regarding the cost of grit for refilling the bins.

Members were updated regarding the valuation for the Walenty Patel sculptures and notified that the insurance company had been informed so they could be added to the Council's policy. The additional premium of £330.27 was noted.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

A18/09#72 Town Clerk's Report – to receive and note update from the Town Clerk (for information only)

- Removal of Fir Tree at St Mary's Churchyard – Members were informed the area would be re-seeded shortly.
- Flower Tubs - It was reported that some of licences had been issued to those organisations and businesses in town taking responsibility for planting.
- Skatepark – The project to re-paint the uprights of the ramps will be getting underway soon with Enviroability offering some volunteers to help with preparation work. A new design has been approved which is hoped would leave graffiti less obtrusive should future occurrences happen.
- A recent trip to Leominster to view their amenities arrangements was successful and some ideas will be explored to enable improvements in the service delivery in Ross.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

A18/09#73 Budget

To receive and note the current budget report for YTD figures 2018/2019

It was noted that there are several budget heads with expenditure that has been allocated from Earmark Reserve Accounts (EMR). Members were advised the new accounting package can now show accurately where expenditure has been allocated to an EMR.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

A18/09#74 Grounds Maintenance Contract

To consider options for managing the Council's Open Spaces in relation to grounds maintenance

Members discussed a number of scenarios for when the existing contract comes to an end this year. It was agreed to investigate potential costs for several options and report back to the next meeting.

A18/09#75 Tree Survey

To approve investigations into the cost of an updated Tree Inspection and Survey Report (last done in March 2016) and give delegated authority to the Clerk to appoint a suitably qualified contractor.

The Members agreed there would be a benefit to looking at the cost of providing training to staff to enable this work to be done in-house. Further investigations should be made regarding the possibility of this and to liaise with the Council's Tree Officer in case he is qualified to carry out the inspection and provide a Report.

A18/09#76 Floodplain Meadows Partnership

To receive and consider report and recommendations following the site visit at the Riverside on 19th April 2018

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

A18/09#77 Annual Inspections

To receive and note the annual playground inspections reports for Deanhill Park, Ropewalk Park and the Skatepark, carried out on 28th June 2018

Members were pleased to note there are no immediate actions necessary and were reminded that weekly inspections are carried out by staff to ensure early identification of defects.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.



A18/09#78 Herefordshire Council Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control

To consider request to assist with identifying 'hot spot' areas for signage within the parish.

The Committee Members compiled a list of hot spot areas that would benefit from signage. These included; Purland, the Town and Country Trail, the footpath down to Cawdor Arch, Brampton Hill, Sports Club Field and the pathway from the Play Park at Roman Way to Cleeve Hill (playing field). The Members approved to offer assistance from the amenities staff to Herefordshire Council in putting up the new signs.

A18/09#79 Correspondence for consideration and response

i) Ross-on-Wye Walkers are Welcome – Maintenance of Public Rights of Way

The Clerk was requested to draft a response advising of the work of the Footpath Officer and to remind WAW to report any issues to the office if they become aware of any. It was noted that WAW accreditation requires them to maintain and improve local footpaths and this Committee would welcome any assistance available.

ii) Ms. Eynon – Request for tree works to be carried out at the Ropewalk

The Committee agreed it would ask the Tree Warden to inspect the tree. It was noted that the tree looked a healthy specimen and in line with normal practice works would only be carried out on the grounds of safety. Any requests by residents to fund tree works on amenity grounds would be looked at on a case by case basis if individuals were prepared to cover the cost. A further inspection would be made to look at whether there was any need to remove some of the lower limbs of the tree which are overhanging the path.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:15pm


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Chairman

9/10/18
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Date