



CORFE MULLEN TOWN COUNCIL
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**Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at
19:30 via Zoom online**

Present: **Councillors**
S Jefferies (Chair)
P Holland
J Lortie
D Mattocks
A Craven
P Purvis
D Sowry-House

In Attendance: Nicola Gray (Town Clerk)
Catherine Horsley (Deputy Clerk) (minute taker)

Public Participation

There was one member of the public present.

Cllr Jefferies welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if the member of the public present wished to raise any issues pertaining to the agenda.

Cllr Howard as a member of the public advised he was observing the meeting and did not wish to raise any issues. Cllr Jefferies thanked him and opened the meeting.

CS 21/44 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Barron who was unable to attend due to personal reasons.

CS 21/45 To Record any declarations of interest Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

CS 21/46 To Approve minutes of meeting held on 1 December 2020 LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41 **A**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 were APPROVED as a correct record of the meeting.

CS 21/47 Accounts for Payment **B**

Cllr Sowry-House noted the recent purchases from Amazon and asked if the Town Council's Amazon account was an Amazon Smile account where a percentage of

the spend was donated to a designated charity at no additional cost to the purchaser. The Clerk confirmed purchases from Amazon were generally for urgent items and noted should the Council wish to support a charity, albeit a nominal amount, this would require agreement of the Full Council. It was agreed Cllr Sowry-House would investigate options and the item would be included on the next Full Council agenda on 23 February 2021.

Cllr Craven asked why the Grounds team had not installed the key safe at the office. The Clerk confirmed the installation required specialist tools to ensure the key safe was properly secured to the office outside wall.

Cllr P Holland noted Screwfix also donated to designated charities by rounding spend up to the nearest pound, which may be worth investigating.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment.

CS 21/48 Update on the Parish Tour and Amenities

C

The report was received with the following points noted:

- Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) had advised that replacement log bollards at Springdale open space car park should be sustainable wood and not stone as previously suggested. Cllr Craven asked if we could go back to DWT to suggest stones like those used on the grass verges outside BH Live, which were harder wearing than sustainable wood. It was agreed the Deputy Clerk would follow up with DWT.
- The replacement of the perimeter fencing at Henbury Play was required, which would be costly due to neglect over previous years. The Deputy Clerk to investigate options and costs.
- A suggestion from a resident and a volunteer for Corfe Mullen Juniors under 9's had been made for children to design a poster to raise awareness and encourage dog owners to pick up dog waste at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk suggested a competition for local schools and clubs to design a poster which could be used for permanent signage displayed on Town Council sites along with being digitalised and on social media.

Cllr Craven proposed the Town Council went ahead with a competition for local schools and clubs to design a poster, which was seconded by Cllr Jefferies. Members voted unanimously in favour.

The Clerk noted consideration should be given to a prize(s) being awarded alongside designs being turned into signage and displayed at Town Council sites. Cllr Sowry-House agreed to award the three successful designs, or part of with vouchers of £30 each, granted from the Chairman's Allowance budget.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to publicise a competition to the schools and clubs within Corfe Mullen to design a poster raising awareness and encouraging dog owners to pick up their dog's waste. Three successful designs would be awarded a voucher of £30 each granted from the Chairman's Allowance and used as signage to be displayed at various Town Council sites and on social media.

- Members discussed the progress on clearing paths and boundary shrubbery within the 'pit area' at the Recreation Ground. It was noted this had been ongoing for some time with a decision on how to proceed required due to the Town Council's responsibility to maintain the boundary with the neighbouring properties. It was noted clearing could not commence until September 2021 due to the bird breeding season which was from March to August.

Cllr Sowry-House suggested a wildlife area project throughout the summer for local schools and clubs to get involved by building bug hotels and bird boxes which could be installed by the Grounds team once the paths and boundary shrubbery had been cleared in the Autumn.

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would publicise the wildlife project to build bug hotels and bird boxes to be placed in the pit area at the Recreation Ground, which would run alongside the competition for schools and clubs raising awareness and encouraging dog users to pick up their dog's waste.

- Cllr Mattocks provided an update on the restoration of finger posts across the Parish, noting progress had been slow due to Covid-19. It was hoped work would speed up once the current restrictions were lifted.
- The Deputy Clerk confirmed the license to use the composting bays at the allotment site was now in place. BCP Contractors had provided a quote of £66 per visit to carryout mechanical turning every 4-5 weeks for 8 months of the year. Members discussed the management of the compost bays, agreeing that consideration should be given to the Allotment Association taking over the day-to-day management and ownership of the compost bays and whether a small grant could be provided to cover costs.

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would liaise with the Chairman of the Allotment Association to discuss the day-to-day management of the Allotments, compost bays and applying for a small grant for ongoing maintenance of the composting bays, and that all plot holders would be required to be members of the Allotment Association.

- It was noted replacing the rabbit proof fencing on the allotment site would not stop rabbits entering the site and therefore, it was agreed that replacing the fencing would not be progressed at this time.

CS 21/49 To Note the Dog Warden Report for November, December 2020 & January 2021

D

Members noted the dog warden had been working hard to raise awareness, educate, and encourage dog owners to be responsible and to comply with Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2020. It was noted some of the Dorset Council signs displayed at Towers Way open space, Henbury play area and the Recreation Ground had been ripped down.

Cllr Sowry-House highlighted an item on the dog wardens report relating to a member of the public observed litter picking at Springdale open space car park due to the litter bins overflowing with rubbish. It was agreed to investigate whose responsibility it was to empty the bins and to follow up increasing frequency to ensure members of the public were able to dispose of litter appropriately.

Members asked for the dog warden to be thanked on their behalf for his work in enforcing the Dog Related Public Spaces Order.

The report was NOTED.

CS 21/50 Matters for Forthcoming Agendas No decisions can be taken¹

¹ Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sech 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)

To agree the named Charity on the Town Council's Amazon Smile Account at the Full Council meeting scheduled on 23 February 2021.

CS 21/51 **To Agree a date and time for the next meeting** – the date and time of the next meeting will be Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 19:30 via Zoom.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting..... Date