



**Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 19:30
in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen**

Present: **Councillors**
A Craven (Chair)
A Holland
P Holland
B Honeyman
S Jefferies
P Purvis
D Sowry-House

In Attendance: Catherine Horsley (Town Clerk)
Rachel Virrill (Deputy Town Clerk – Minute taker)

Public Participation

There was one member of the public present, who did not wish to speak.

CS 23/16 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

There were no apologies for absence received.

CS 23/17 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 23/18 Paper A - To Approve minutes of meeting held on 13 June 2023 LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2023 were **APPROVED**.

CS 23/19 Paper B - To Approve Accounts for Payment

Cllr P Holland raised the following query:

- Line 225: What period did the phone lines and broadband charges relate to. The Clerk confirmed the charges were invoiced quarterly covering the phone and broadband lines at the Council office and the grounds unit to operate the CCTV and intruder alarm.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Accounts for Payment, totalling £7,210.87.

Paper C - To Consider and Approve Quotations for Streetlighting Works

The Clerk presented the report. Members discussed at length the quotations received for replacement or removal of the damaged column outside the Council office and updating all columns which were the responsibility of the Town Council to LED lighting with shields. Members considered the options available in terms of health & safety and cost efficiencies alongside the 2023/24 allocated budget of £3000 for streetlighting and furniture, which included energy costs.

Cllr Purvis proposed to approve the quotation to remove the column outside the Council office and defer consideration to update all columns to LED as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

This was seconded by Cllr A Holland with an amendment to the motion to update all remaining columns to which the Town Council was responsible for in Towers Way to LED to increase the light following the removal of one column.

Cllr A Holland noted some historic East Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council stickers should be removed from the column adjacent to the MUGA goal end in Towers Way.

The update was **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the quotation from Energieo to remove the column outside the Council office at a total cost of £856.27+VAT.

It was **RESOLVED** to further investigate a more cost-effective way to update remaining columns in Towers Way to LED whilst carrying out the removal of column outside Council office. The quotation to be revisited at a Full Council meeting for approval ahead of the next Community Services Committee meeting scheduled on 12 September 2023.

Paper D - To Note Update on Amenities

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk presented the report, noting the following updates:

- Scaffolding would be erected at the Sports Pavilion on 17 July 2023, to enable roofing repairs to be carried out.
- Recreation Ground play area repairs and maintenance was work in progress.
- The 'springy' bike at the Recreation Ground play area had been damaged over the weekend and removed. Investigations were in progress to look at the feasibility of repairing versus replacement costs.

Cllr Honeyman noted the update relating to the Recreation Ground whereby a resident required access to their property from the Recreation Ground to remove a large rockery should read Rectory Avenue not Old Rectory Avenue.

A lengthy discussion took place relating to risks of lighting fires outside the Scout hut at the Recreation Ground by the Scouts and Girl Guides. The Clerk advised the Scouts were a responsible organisation who had confirmed risk assessments were carried out prior to any fires being lit, noting the Scouts and Girl Guides had lit fires in this area for many years. Members raised concerns with lighting fires in the proximity of neighbouring properties and the grounds unit compound, where equipment and flammable chemicals were stored.

Cllr A Holland proposed no fires to be permitted at the Recreation Ground by the Scouts and/or Girl Guides due to health & safety. This was seconded by Cllr Craven.

Cllr Sowry-House reminded members of the climate emergency declared by the Town Council and how lighting fires released large amounts of compounds such as carbon dioxide into the environment, causing air pollution which contributed to climate change and proposed an amendment to the motion relating to the effects of lighting fires on climate change.

The update was **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to the Scout and Girl Guide leaders to provide the rationale for fires not being permitted on any of the Town Council sites including health & safety and the effect on climate change.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the repositioning of Glasstiger Café from the car park by the skate park at the Recreation Ground to the car park adjacent to the Sports Pavilion.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate costs to repair or replace the broken 'springy' bike at the Recreation Ground play area.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate quotations to supply and install outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground ahead of the 2024/25 budget setting.

CS 23/22 Paper E - To Note Update on Allotments

The update was **NOTED**.

CS 23/23 Paper F - To Note Update on the Cemeteries

The Clerk presented the report, noting the driveway in the old cemetery to the chapel had eroded further, with temporary repairs carried out to ensure the area was safe. However, obtaining quotations from contractors to carry out essential repairs was proving difficult as many contractors did not want to quote for the works due to the proximity of graves to the driveway, albeit the Deputy Clerk was progressing.

Cllr Craven reported he had visited the cemeteries as part of the Parish Tour and noted the location and amount of the Commonwealth war graves in the old cemetery.

The update was **NOTED**.

CS 23/24 Paper G – To Note Highways Update

The Clerk presented the report.

Members acknowledged the update from Dorset Council regarding the dragons teeth on Lockyers Road at Cogdean Elms. However, Cllr P Holland suggested purchasing large rocks, similar to those on the grass verge outside BH Live to deter vehicles entering the green space.

The Clerk advised, should the Town Council wish to install large rocks, the ongoing maintenance would be at the responsibility of the Town Council, adding to the reduced Grounds Teams' responsibilities. Members felt the Town Council should consider approaching Dorset Council to asset transfer the land to the Town Council prior to considering any work being carried out in this area on Dorset Council land.

Members discussed the resident's concerns relating to parking on Springdale Road and whilst they sympathised, were unable to support a request to remove parking bay or install double yellow lines in this location due to lack of enforcement. However, it was agreed the Clerk would contact Dorset Council Highways to investigate whether hatched line painting adjacent to the residents driveways was possible and report back at a future meeting.

The update was **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to Julia's House requesting visitors and staff to park considerately on Springdale Road.

CS 23/25 Matters for forthcoming agendas No decisions can be taken¹

Cllr Sowry-House provided members with an update on 'the Pound' following a recent conversation with the adjacent residents who had fenced in the area.

The Clerk reported she was awaiting a callback from a legal firm relating to advice being sought on the land becoming a Town Council asset.

CS 23/26 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting – Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 19:00 in the small hall of the Village Hall, Towers, Way, Corfe Mullen.

CS 23/27 Close of Meeting at 20:34

Signed as a correct record of the meeting...  ... Date12/9/23..

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