



Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 19:33 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen

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

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

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CS 23/52 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr A Craven due to personal commitments.

Cllr B Honeyman was not present.

CS 23/53 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 23/54 Paper A - To Approve minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2023 & 14 November 2023 LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 September 2023 and 14 November 2023 were **APPROVED**.

Cllr Jefferies thanked the staff for their hard work during recent staff absences.

Cllr Jefferies asked if the office had received any negative feedback relating to the siting of Beryl Bikes across the village. The Clerk confirmed the office had not received any feedback.

CS 23/55 Paper B - To Approve Accounts for Payment

Cllr Jefferies raised the following query:

Lines 786/785: Utility costs for water and electricity for the Grounds Unit appeared high. The Clerk confirmed the costs covered an 18-month period, which accounted for the high costs. Unfortunately, due to the Town Council being invoiced by Corfe Mullen Scouts Association, the Town Council is unable to reclaim VAT.

Members felt the supply of utilities to the Grounds Unit should have a separate meter, to enable usage to be monitored and invoiced directly to the Town Council, therefore enabling VAT to be reclaimed. The Clerk agreed to investigate whether this was possible and report back to Full Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Accounts for Payment totalling £14,289.16.

CS 23/56 Paper C - To Note Update for Amenities

The Deputy Clerk presented the report and provided an update on the quotations received for the bus shelters as discussed at the Full Council meeting held on 23 January 2024. The bus shelter already in place on Wareham Road, at Windgreen Roundabout, would require a replacement, due to water corroding the posts from the inside out. A further report would be presented to the next Full Council meeting scheduled on 27 February 2024, for a decision on how to proceed.

Members noted there were a number of quotations outstanding. The Deputy Clerk confirmed, contractors had been followed up, however, it was difficult to find contractors who wanted to quote for any work and reiterated that quotations would be presented to meetings as soon as they had been received.

Cllr Jefferies queried the level of playground inspection due to the letter accompanying the report stating, *'this assessment does not meet the requirements identified in an annual inspection.'* The Deputy Clerk confirmed she would follow this up with the Playground Inspector as a full inspection had been requested and to her knowledge, this was what had been carried out.

Cllr Jefferies asked how many of the saplings received from the Woodland Trust had survived. The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately, due to the hot, dry weather experienced in 2023, there were only a handful of saplings that had survived and could be planted out.

Cllr P Holland advised some residents had contacted him relating to the works carried out to clear the pit area during 2023. Brambles and other shrubbery had been cut back, leaving sharp debris on the paths causing a hazard to animals and members of the public walking in the area. The Deputy Clerk advised the contractor who carried out the work, was no longer in business, however, she would ensure the next appointed contractor removed all debris from the site.

Cllr Sowry-House noted the building of the new memorial benches to be placed at the new cemetery and Towers Way open space as a result of vandalism and felt the Revd Jane Burgess and the families should be invited to a re-dedication of the newly installed memorial bench at the new cemetery, once in place.

The Chairman's Article in the Link Magazine should also include some wording relating to the increased vandalism in the village and the costs to the Town Council.

The update was **NOTED**.

CS 23/57 Paper D - To Note Update on the Allotments

The Deputy Clerk presented the report, noting there was one remaining resident on the waiting list who was awaiting a raised bed, due to a disability. It was noted that other raised bed holders may be willing to swap or hand over, which would be investigated.

It was reported that the Grounds Team had progressed with the installation of covers on the water troughs, with only 5 troughs nearest to the gate outstanding.

Members discussed the wooden bench to be installed at the Allotment site. Cllr Sowry-House requested that members of the Allotment Association and the Woman's Institute be invited to the unveiling of the bench once the location had been confirmed.

Discussion took place relating to the gully running across the driveway up to the top car park. Due to the gully being in place to take water off the site and onto the wild meadow and balancing pond, plot holders were driving on the nearby grass verges to avoid the gully. Cllr Sowry-House reminded members that Natural England had placed restrictions on the materials that could be used on site, due to its location being within the Green Belt, therefore, the hoggin surfacing could not be changed. Members considered installing large rocks on each side of the gully, to deter cars from driving on the grass verges. The Clerk confirmed this would be investigated.

The update was **NOTED**.

CS 23/58 Paper E - To Note Update and Approve Quotations for the Cemeteries

The Deputy Clerk presented the report, noting the quotations received to carry out repair works to new cemetery wall and pillars. Members discussed the quotations and felt in the long term replacing the wall and pillars would be more cost-effective.

Discussion took place relating to the reduced cemetery income as a result of no full burial plots remaining and a limited number of cremated remains plots being available to purchase. It was agreed to investigate further options for cremated remains, particularly a cremation memorial wall.

The update was **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate quotations to replace the new cemetery wall and pillars and to investigate further options for interment of cremated remains.

CS 23/59 Paper F – To Note Highways Update

The Deputy Clerk presented the report for noting, as it would be presented to the Planning Committee for any decision making. Cllr Purvis noted the 'slow' sign on Broadmoor Road required repainting.

Members requested an update on the repositioning and/or line painting of the Hillview Roundabout. The Clerk agreed to follow up with the Community Highways Officer.

Discussion took place relating to parking issues in and around Henbury View First School during school drop off/pick up. It was noted should the request for double-yellow lines on Hillside Road be approved by Dorset Council Highways, discussions would need to take place with the school to ensure safe measures are put in place during drop-off/pick-up times.


The update was **NOTED**.

CS 23/60 Matters for forthcoming agendas No decisions can be taken¹

Members noted complaints had been received from residents relating to the poor surfacing in front of the shops at The Parade on Wareham Road. It was agreed to carry out an HM Land Registry search to ascertain who the landowner is and to follow up with a letter to the landowner on behalf of the Town Council.

CS 23/61 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting – Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 19:30 in the small hall of the Village Hall, Towers, Way, Corfe Mullen.

CS 23/62 Close of Meeting at 20:55.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting...  ... Date ... 9/4/24 ...

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)