

Draft MINUTES OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Held at the Town Hall on
Wednesday, 2nd November 2016 at 10.30am**

Present: Cllr C Bentley
Cllr H Chapman (Chair)
Cllr D Frame
Cllr V Hawkins
Cllr G Wilkinson

In Attendance: Mrs I Taylor – Town Clerk
Mrs M Holmes – Deputy Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Red Kite Trails

2.1 Presentation on Trail

Richard Plummer and David Lund attended the meeting and gave a presentation giving background information and details of similar trails and skills areas in other parts of the company. The land that they have identified in Wetherby as possible areas for the skills section were discussed. They gave an outline of how the work was undertaken, mainly through volunteers but specialist contractors were used where required. The possibility of grants to cover the costs was also raised. Richard and David were thanked for their time and left the meeting.

2.2 Council Involvement

Following discussion there was unanimous support in principle for the project. More detailed information was required; including:

- Ownership of the land (WTC currently own only one of the two areas proposed for a skills course)
- Responsibility for Insurance (Richard indicated that this normally rests with the landowner)
- Responsibility for regular inspections of the skills areas
- Responsibility for on-going maintenance
- Whether a specific Management Committee for the skills areas would be required
- Whether there are any implications with regard to planning

3. Minutes of Meeting held 24 August 2016

These were circulated for information only, having been approved by Council at the September meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

3.1 Hedge on Aire Road (10.1 of 24.08.16)

Cllr Wilkinson reported that this had been cut back.

3.2 Grassed area on Walton Road (10.2 of 24.08.16)

Cllr Wilkinson reported that an area of tarmac had been created to prevent the grass being damaged.

3.3 Seat at Junction of Freemans Way/Hallfield Lane (10.3 of 24.08.16)

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed he was still awaiting information with regard to the seat at Freemans Way. The Town Clerk apologised for not having forwarded this information and undertook to let Cllr Wilkinson have this immediately after the meeting.

4. Keys to Council Property

Cllr Chapman informed members that he had asked to have a key to the Bath House so that when he shows visitors around the Bath House he does not have to make arrangements to collect the key from the Town Hall and return it afterwards. The Deputy Clerk informed members that in the past there had been problems with not knowing who actually had keys (copies of keys held legitimately had been made). The current policy, with a few exceptions, is that keys are signed in and out of the Town Hall. Whilst members agreed that this was a sound policy they also agreed that Cllr Chapman should be allowed a key to the Bath House.

5. Garden of Rest

5.1 To consider raising height of conifer

The Deputy Clerk circulated a photograph of a conifer in the Garden of Rest that is overhanging half of the footpath. It was proposed that the tree be crown lifted in order to allow easy access to the full width of the footpath. Following discussion:

Resolved: To recommend that the conifer be crown lifted

5.2 To consider removal of two laurel bushes to better reveal the Huguenot Arch

The Deputy Clerk circulated photographs showing the Huguenot Arch and the laurel bushes. The Huguenot Arch is a feature and has a Blue Plaque. Following discussion:

Resolved: To recommend that the Laurel Bushes be removed.

6. Scaur Bank

6.1 Himalayan Balsam

An information paper had been circulated to members. The Clerk reported that Himalayan Balsam had proliferated at Scaur Bank around the beck and on the river bank. The proposal was that the Town Handyman would strim these areas next year before the seed pods developed. This would help to reduce the spread of the plant and would control the plants that there are currently in those areas. This would be an on-going task.

6.2 Draft Consultation Paper

The Clerk circulated a draft consultation paper that she had prepared in respect of the Play Area. Whilst it had originally been envisaged that this would be just about Scaur Bank the Clerk thought this exercise could usefully be extended to the other Play Areas managed by WTC. It was suggested that perhaps Richard Plummer (Red Kite Trails) could be approached to see if there was any questions they would wish to be added. The Clerk informed members that she had approached the local schools to see if they could help with the distribution, we were also compiling a list of users of the play areas who had expressed an interest in contributing to the project.

7. Jubilee Gardens – Chafer Bugs

The Deputy Clerk reported that Chafer Bugs had been discovered at Jubilee Gardens. Treatment had been undertaken at a cost of £220.00 and the affected area has been netted (on advice) to prevent birds etc., getting into the habit of pecking at the grass. We had been advised that we may need to

repeat the treatment next year as it is difficult to eradicate the problem and is often not 100% successful after only one treatment.

8. Trees in Green Space Areas

This item was deferred to the next meeting

9. Incidents in Green Spaces

The Deputy Clerk reported that the roundabout at Scaur Bank had been removed for safety reasons. Photographs were circulated showing the roundabout prior to its removal. It appears that the internal central shaft had sheered totally. There were no indications that this was as a result of vandalism and was more likely due to the age of the roundabout which must have been installed in the 1950's or 1960's.

10. Members' Observation of Green Spaces

10.1 Sculpture at Bridgefoot

Cllr Chapman had seen some visitors to the town looking at the Sculpture and enquired whether they liked it. They thought it was very attractive but were disappointed that they could not read the plaque, the writing on which is extremely small. The Clerk confirmed she would raise the matter with Wetherby in Bloom.

11. Items for Information

Cllr Wilkinson had details of the Great Britain Clean Up to take place 3 – 5 March 2017. He agreed to forward the details to the Clerk

12. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would liaise with the Chair to arrange the date and time of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.40am

HC/MH