

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 29th JUNE, 2017

Present: Councillor: A Bradford - Chairman
Councillors: D Baker A Crowe
 M Eager M Eakin
 E Fieldhouse K Francis
 N Morris J Roberts
 H Wilce

In Attendance: Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council

The Chairman moved forward the public participation item to allow a member of the public to speak.

E.49 - 06.17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The President of Ledbury Sports Federation Mr Ian Beer, spoke about the issues faced by the organisation and its concerns over the under provision of playing fields in the town. Mr Beer queried how the Town Council proposed to address the situation to meet current and future needs particularly in light of proposed new housing developments and the inevitable increase in population.

Members were acutely aware of the undersupply and responded that the Council through its Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group, had undertaken a 'Call for Sites' but unfortunately no land had been brought forward for sport/leisure facilities during that process. However, when considering the outline application for up to 625 homes on the viaduct site, (ED & P Committee meeting - 25th May 2017) the Council had recommended that Bloor Homes substitute approximately 3 hectares of proposed employment land with 3 hectares of land for outdoor sports provision and associated facilities.

A resident of Hillfield Drive spoke about the ongoing antisocial behaviour taking place on the 'cricket pitch' in Dog Hill Wood and enquired whether the Council had given any more thought to the installation of CCTV cameras to act as a deterrent.

The Chairman advised that there was an item on the agenda to consider the issue and that he would bring the item forward for discussion after Apologies and Interests.

E.50 - 06.17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from:

1. Cllr R Barnes
2. Cllr N. Roberts
3. Cllr J Simpson

E.51 - 06.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared at this point in the meeting.

E.52 - 06.17 DOG HILL WOOD

Members discussed the antisocial behaviour, vandalism and recent act of arson at the cricket pitch area of Dog Hill Wood and were shown photographs of the damage caused. Two local residents had contacted the Council with regard to this matter. The Chairman reported that a site visit had taken place with a security company to look at options for the installation of CCTV equipment and a quotation for the works had been received that evening. The Clerk advised that subject to detail, a local resident had agreed in principle to provide power and house the recording equipment.

Discussion followed on whether to seek further quotes for the work.

Cost for replacing damaged slats on the picnic bench had been requested but not received in time for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That if possible, additional quotations be obtained for CCTV equipment for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 20th July, 2017.

At this point, the Chairman allowed a local resident to speak regarding an issue with the hazardous condition of a pathway leading from Tesco to Robinson's Meadow. (refer E.59 - 06.17).

E.53 - 06.17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 18th May, 2017, copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.

E.54 - 06.17 CEMETERY

1. Members considered a request for works to remove a tree stump to allow for the erection of a headstone. (refer E.31 - 03.17, 7.2 and Cemetery Working Party Report 22.02.17, item 5. An estimate for grinding out the stump to below ground level had been obtained in the region of £150-200.

Following discussion,

it was **RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to permit the removal of a section of the stump to allow for the erection of a headstone but that any expense must be met by the applicant.**

2. A local resident had requested the removal of a large tree adjacent to his property on the Oakland Drive boundary due to issues with seasonal needle drop. Members were shown photographs of large piles of dropped needles inside the resident's property, and of the tree itself.
Members were advised that when recently inspected the tree was in good health.

RESOLVED: That the resident be informed of his right to cut back branches overhanging his property.

E.55 - 06.17 WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Eager gave an update on proposed works to the War Memorial and surrounding pedestrian area. Plans to dismantle the memorial to carry out renovation works had had to be revised due to it becoming grade II listed. Works must now be done in situ and will be subject to planning permission.

Members were advised of the difficulties in obtaining advice and quotations for the necessary ground works to address the issues of water pooling around the base of the memorial. One quotation had been received for ground works to replace and level out the existing cobbled area around the memorial with pavers and create a shallow channel to allow run-off of excess rain water. Two options and associated costs were considered:

- Option 1. To replace cobbles to the front of the memorial joining up to the line of the existing pavers to the left and right.
- Option 2. To replace the cobbled square surrounding the memorial with pavers to match the existing.

Members felt that the existing cobbles which had been laid in the 1980's should be replaced as they are very uneven and slippery when wet and difficult for wheelchair users and those with reduced vision and mobility issues.

Following discussion and subject to planning permission being granted for the scheme,

it was **RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to approve option 2.**

It was further **RESOLVED: That the quotation for groundworks be approved in the sum of £5,500. (cost based on price of materials as at May 2017)**

E.56 - 06.17 TOWN CENTRE

1. The Chairman gave a brief update on the placement of a seat outside the Old Cottage Hospital in the Homend. It had previously been decided to install a seat from stock, however, this not been possible due to it being too deep for the width of the footway at the chosen location.

Members considered three different options for the purchase of a narrower bench in different lengths.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to approve the purchase of a steel 1.8m length black bench with rounded edges in the sum of £236 plus VAT and fitting.

2. Members considered an offer from Ledbury & District Civic Society (LDCS) to replace the bin located adjacent to the Market House and possibly bins at other locations.

RESOLVED: That the offer be gratefully received.

It was noted that the bin located near to the alleyway in Bye Street car park was in a very poor condition as were many others in the town. The Clerk will liaise with LDCS regarding siting and installation of new bins.

E.57 - 06.17 WELCOME TO LEDBURY SIGNAGE

Members considered works to repair/replace Welcome to Ledbury signage on the Worcester Road following damage caused by a car collision.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to approve the works in the sum of £670.

E.58 - 06.17 WORKING PARTIES AND TASK & FINISH GROUPS

1. Town Promotion Working Party meeting held on 22nd May, 2017. Report not available.
2. Events Working Party meeting held on 23rd May, 2017 and Executive Group meetings on 31st May, 8th June, 21st June, 2017. Cllr Fieldhouse gave a verbal update on arrangements for the Great Ledbury Celebration on Sunday 9th July.

E.59 - 06.17 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) CONSULTATION: DOG CONTROL.

The Herefordshire Council consultation was noted with no comments.

E.60 - 06.17 CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered the following matters:

1. Letter from a local resident regarding concerns over the condition of a pathway leading from Tesco to Robinsons Meadow. As a result of bad weather a large amount of small stones and mud etc. had washed down to the bottom of the path and into Robinson's Meadow causing a potential danger to pedestrians, particularly the elderly who use the path regularly. Tesco had been approached but had responded that the path was not owned by them. Some members recalled that the

pathway was created by the developers when Tesco was built and that they had always cleared the path in the early years.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Tesco head office regarding their responsibility to address the issue and that the Committee Chairman speak to the Manager of the Ledbury store to see if anything can be done locally.

- 2. Correspondence from a local resident regarding seating in the Homend and cleanliness of the town centre. The Chairman reported that he had contacted the correspondent regarding the issue of seating. A decision had been taken earlier in the meeting to install a bench in the Homend. It was reported that Ledbury in Bloom were working hard to keep the streets clean ahead of judging day. Members also felt that the street cleaners worked hard and did a good job. Cllr Fieldhouse reported that she had received comments from elderly residents of Deer Park who would like a bench installed at the top of Biddulph Way. The Chairman offered to look at possible locations and report back to the Committee.
- 3. Correspondence from a local resident regarding the removal of a rubbish bin on the Town Trail and anti-social littering at the Recreation Ground.
Cllr Wilce felt that the shelter situated adjacent to the skate park was the main root of the problems with littering and antisocial behaviour and proposed its removal. Following discussion,
it was **RESOLVED: To obtain a quotation for the removal of the shelter.**
- 4. St. Katherine’s Patient Participation Group (PPG) had enquired about any progress made on the action points identified in the Town Plan concerning health and wellbeing and offered to be involved in helping to implement any Plans the Council may have. The PPG to be invited to present any ideas to the Town Council for consideration.
- 5. A local resident had contacted the Council regarding a programme of works to improve the Town Trail and had been advised that this was the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.
- 6. A copy of the Fields in Trust spring/summer newsletter ‘Field Notes’ containing an article on the Ledbury Recreation Ground being protected as a Centenary Field.

E.61 - 06.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 14th September, 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm

SIGNED DATE