

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 44 OLD STREET, CLEVEDON ON WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY
2013

PRESENT: Councillors D Shopland. Committee Chairman
C Bussey, C Francis-Pester, B. Garner, P. McNeill, J Middleton,
Town Clerk – Ms P. Heath,

EP 13/301 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors, L Little & C Hall (family commitments)

EP 13/302 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda at this point. Subsequently Cllr Garner declared a personal interest as a member of the YMCA management board in respect of agenda item no 6 Highdale Land & no 8 Skate park

EP 13/303 RECEIVE AND AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2013

Proposed seconded and **AGREED** that the minutes of 6th March 2013 were a true record and were signed by the Chairman as such.

EP 13/304 TO RECEIVE DETAIL OF BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE COMMITTEE,

Members noted the budget that had been circulated with the agenda.

EP 13/305 [13/291] TO RECEIVE RESPONSE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN RESPECT OF DUST AND GRIT ON PROPERTY AND CARS IN CLEVEDON.

Members noted the letter from the Environment Agency but were concerned at statement “the Environment Agency are only able to investigate allegations of air pollution from sites which are permitted by us.” They go on to say that as the Royal Pier hotel work was not regulated by them they would not be able to have any involvement. This appears to indicate that the EA were a permissions only remit and not regulatory as had previously believed. Members were concerned that should an incident happen emulating from a source not under permit from the EA it was implied that no matter how serious the EA would not investigate, and presumable if no investigation then no prosecutions could be brought against the offender. Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that a letter is sent to the MP to request a clarification of the EA remit in overseeing and protecting the Environment.

EP 13/306 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LAND AT HIGHDALE AND LETTER FROM MR FOSTER REQUESTING THE COUNCILS OPINION ON THE FUTURE OF THE SITE AND AGREEMENT TO DISSOLVE THE LEASE.

Members discussed the letter received from Mr Foster. Members **AGREED** to dissolve the lease between Clevedon Town Council and YMCA for the area of land between Highdale Road and Highdale Avenue. Members discussed the future use of the land and the YMCA request to release the £500 budget for them to carry out further work on the site to create a wildflower meadow. After considerable discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **AGREED** by 5 votes to 0 ,that the Committee releases the £500 to the YMCA for the future work to clear the site, hire suitable equipment and dispose of all waste generated to create a wildflower meadow.

EP 13/307 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE REPAIRS AND DECORATION OF NO 42 AND RATIFY THE DECISION BY THE NOMINATED PERSONS AS TO THE CONTRACT AND PRICE OF THE CONTRACT

Members RATIFIED the decision taken and approved the contractor for the work to the Old School House by 5 votes to 0; the contractor being R J Golding & Sons. Members were informed that the work would commence on 17th June. The Town Clerk would liaise with the Lettings agent nearer the time to market the property for let.

EP 13/308 TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR THE SKATEPARK AS PART OF THE YMCA AND POLICE FUNDING BID TO REPAINT THE SKATEPARK BACK BOARDS AND POSSIBLE CREATION OF A SEAT IN THE AREA.

Members discussed the funding application and agreed to support the painting of the skate park, Members were concerned about the seating proposed and queried where it would be located. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk attends the meeting on the 17th May as the Committee representative

EP 13/309 TO CONFIRM INCREASE IN RECYCLING COLLECTION COST TO £3.95 PER COLLECTION

Members noted the price increase

EP 13/310 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PURCHASE OF A STEAM CLEANER FOR THE CARETAKERS USE IN CLEANING THE COUNCIL PREMISES

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that the Council purchase a steam cleaner and attachments up to a budgeted amount of £200 for the cleaning of hard surfaces within the Town Council offices and Council House.

EP 13/311 MOTION BY CLLR SHOPLAND” THAT THIS COMMITTEE REQUESTS THE FGP COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CHARGING A NOMINAL INTEREST ON MONEY DUE BY THE COUNCIL’S CHARITABLE TRUSTS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL”

Members discussed this in detail. The Town Clerk explained the difficulties with the legal and administrative requirements to undertake this motion. The charity trusts involved are Herbert Gardens and the Village Hall. Herbert Gardens has a limited income each year which does not cover the basic expenditure of emptying bins, litter picks, and grass cuts. Over and above this is the cost of maintenance required on the trees. The “debt” by the trust increases each year. The Village Hall has a regular income which in the normal year easily covers any expenditure, although this year the repairs and maintenance authorised by the Committee exceeds the income. If the Council choose to charge interest on the “debt” it would just increase the debt with no possible payback, also members would have to consider if they pay interest on the amount due to the Charity Trusts. The Town Clerk advised that the legal process would have to be checked with the Charity Commission and also the monitoring officer as the Trustee of both charities is the Town Council as a corporate body but the Councillors who make up the Town Council could be deemed to have a pecuniary interest. Having considered the administrative and legal work required Members decided not to continue with the motion. The Town Clerk informed members that an on-going record of income and expenditure on the two trusts was kept since 2009 and should the Council dispose of the sites then the Council could claim any amounts due to them from the disposal income.

EP 13/312 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were no Chairman’s items for information

EP 13/313 TO DETERMINE PART I AND PART II ITEMS.

There were no Part 1 items

The meeting finished at 8.10pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN Date

Informal

The Members agreed that the Town Clerk could investigate the feasibility and traders thoughts to increasing the Thursday market to 2 days, reporting back to a future meeting.