

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the 439th meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th March 2014**

PRESENT: Chairman – P McNeill
 Councillors C. Blades, C Bussey, A. Cotton, C. Francis-Pester, B. Garner, J Geldart, , C. Hall, B. Hatch, G Hill, L Knott, L. Little, T. Morgan, J. Norton-Sealey, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland (7.50pm), D. Shopland (7.50pm), G. Watkins, C. Wring
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath;
 Members of the Public 31

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS**Prayers**

Voluntary Prayers were said by the Chairman.

Public Session

This session was extended beyond the 20 minutes with the agreement of the Council

Mr Paul Smart – Area Technician North Somerset Council

Mr Smart introduced himself to the Council and explained his role as the Clevedon Area Technician as well as being the Area Manager. Members were invited to contact Mr Smart to conduct a ward survey identifying areas of concern.

Public session behaviour and consideration of comments

A resident asked Members to consider how they conduct the public session at the start of both the Council and Committee Meetings. The resident explained that he had a concern with a comment made at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, for which he had received both a verbal and written apology, and also that a letter written in response to a planning application had not been specifically mentioned at the meeting, but had been circulated to the planning committee. He also questioned the timing of the Planning Committee decision making before the end of the public consultation.

Herbert Gardens – 4 members of the public spoke in respect of agenda item 13

Concern was expressed by all 4 speakers about the irresponsible minority who allowed their dogs to foul and did not pick it up, feeling this gave responsible dog owners a bad name. There were differing views as to whether keeping dogs on leads would improve the behaviour of dogs and their owners. The speakers all felt that a closer community involvement in Herbert Gardens would be desirable and expressed interest in rejuvenating the Friends of Herbert Gardens. This group, one speaker went on to explain, could appoint a liaison officer to work with the Council and keep users informed of the Councils work in Herbert Gardens.

Concern was expressed over children's safety and two speakers mentioned incidents when children were bitten or scared by dogs, and also that many local families had stopped going to the park because of the problem with dogs not being controlled. Members were informed that some residents felt intimidated. A petition had been handed to the council (to be received under agenda item 13) signed by 751 people. Concern was raised as to the lack of information and consultation before the decision taken by the Council at the last meeting to purchase 3 signs requesting that dogs are kept on leads. Two of the speakers felt the situation in the Gardens was improving and that the dog walkers were policing the area speaking and assisting other owners to control and clean up after their dogs. The Environmental Health Officer "dog wardens" had been requested by one of the speakers to visit on a regular basis and asked that their data is assessed by

the Council before making a decision. The problem of antisocial behaviour was raised and that dog walkers often had to clear up the bottles, cans and litter discarded by a small minority of people with no regard to other users. A suggestion was made that the park could be divided into different time zones for dogs on and off the leads.

8.05 FORMAL BUSINESS

14/405 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Giles-Townsend J. Middleton (illness) Cpt Michael Eden (Parish commitments)

RESOLVED: That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

14/406 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Knott declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 Herbert Gardens.

*Proposed by Cllr McNeill and **AGREED** by the Members to move agenda Item no 13 Herbert gardens to be considered next.*

14/407 RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PETITION RE HERBERT GARDENS; TO DISCUSS IF THE MEMBERS WISH TO RECONSIDER THE COUNCILS DECISION TAKEN UNDER 14/398.7 IN LIGHT OF THE PETITION; TO RECONFIRM OR AMEND THE DECISION

A copy of the original decision was shown on the agenda

Members received the Petition on Herbert Gardens and the proposed signs to state dogs must be kept on leads.

Council had approved the purchase of the signs and the quotations for the purchase had been considered by the Environment & Property Committee as per Council decision. In view of the knowledge of the petition, letters received by Councillors and media reports providing additional information the Committee referred the item back to the Council for further discussion before proceeding.

Members discussed at length the comments made in the public session, many recounting their personal experiences in the park and comments received during their visits to the park. In response to a question Members were informed that the petition had been received in the office on 26th February and, at the request of the petition organiser who was speaking at the Environment & Property Committee, was available at the meeting for Members information. The problem of dog fouling and irresponsible owners was discussed Members accepting that this was a problem not only in Herbert Gardens but also across Clevedon. Members noted they had a moral if not legal duty to keep the area clean as reasonably possible. The availability of areas to exercise dogs was noted. Members appreciated that some residents have a problem with dogs either fearful of them or allergic and could have an adverse reaction if a dog comes into contact with them. It was explained that the park was for the use of all residents and not just those for or against dogs on leads.

Although the Council welcomed the reinstatement of the Friends of Herbert Gardens there was concern that any group should incorporate all users and local residents and encompass all views and opinions.

Members discussed at length the way forward. It was felt that a clear defined monitoring system of the park was needed if the assessment of users was required; the Council could not rely on the one dog warden that covers the whole of North Somerset.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors should undertake the monitoring with regular recorded visits over 6 months. It was noted that the next 6 months included the summer period when it was expected the park would be busier.

Proposed by Cllr Francis-Pester, seconded by Cllr Garner and **RATIFIED** by 13 votes to 4 that the decision under minute no 14/398.7 be deferred for 6 months to allow for appropriate monitoring by NS Environmental Officer and Councillors to take place and that this be analysed before a decision is taken to activate or not the original decision. As per Council decision 13/378 the Environment & Property Committee would collate the monitoring and analysis and report back to the Council prior to the decision being made.

14/408 MOTION BY CLLR SHOPLAND

“That this Council sets up a working party, as quickly as possible, to consider the current provision of public toilets in Clevedon and any future requirements, having taken note of the concerns being expressed by members of the public”

Members discussed and **AGREED** the motion by 18 votes to 0. The working group will be set up under the Environment & Property Committee to report back to the Council.

14/409 MOTION BY CLLR SHOPLAND

“ that prior to the new Council taking office in 2015 that the present Committee organisation and remits should be examined and altered, if necessary, so as to ensure smooth working of the Council”

Members discussed and **AGREED** the motion by 18 votes to 0. The Finance & General Policy Committee would agree a timetable for this to enable a final decision to be made before the 2015 elections

14/410 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/411 THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Precept meeting held on 15th January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/412 THE CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

412.1 Civic Service

The Chairman hoped to see all Members at the Civic service on 6th April .

412.2 Civic Night

The Chairman thanked those members who attended the Civic Night.

14/413 THE TOWN CLERKS REPORT AS PER THE ATTACHED LIST**Newsletter and reports –**

The following newsletters and reports have been received and are available from the office.

NSC – Town & Parish Digest Feb 2014 – emailed to members

DIS – copies of which were emailed to Councillors – hard copy attached for those Councillors without email addresses, 825,826,827,828 ,

DIARY DATES

10th May 2014 – Clevedon Sailing Club – Town Plate

14th April Annual Town Meeting – members were informed that as last year Clevedon News would be filming the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE for INFORMATION ONLY

The Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral review update – emailed 10/2/2014

14/414 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**14/414.1 FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY 8th January 2014**

Minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting were presented to the meeting by the Committee Chairman and **AGREED**, subject to the amendment of those present and apologising.

The Committee Chairman invited questions on part 2

In response to a question it was confirmed that the relevant paperwork had been signed in respect of the handover of the public toilets, in the town centre and on the sea front.

In response to a question members noted that the Marine Lake HLF engineering drawings did take into consideration the weakness in the flood defence currently being blocked by North Somerset Council with sandbags.

14/414.2 PLANNING 22ND JANUARY 2014

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented by the Chairman, and **AGREED**.

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items; there were none

14/414.3 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS – 20TH JANUARY 2014

Minutes of the Transport & Highways Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, by the Committee Chairman and **AGREED**.

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items, there were none

14/414.4 PLANNING 12TH FEBRUARY 2014

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented by the Chairman and **AGREED**.

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items there were none

14/414.5 TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES 19TH FEBRUARY 2014

Minutes of the Town Events & Amenities Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, and **AGREED**.

Part 1

(TEA/14/305 SALTHOUSE FIELDS TENNIS COURTS: RESOLVED: To recommend acceptance of the Draft Heads of Terms to Council. The following points to be queried prior to the final lease being signed;

1. Costs – itemisation and clarification of costs.
- 2 .Permitted Use – To request the removal of the word “only”. Concern that organisations may wish to book the courts.
3. To confirm the condition of the courts on hand over.)

AGREED – it was confirmed that these points had been incorporated in the final lease to be agreed under min. no. 14/418

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items;
14/710 Christmas Lights

In response to a question the Committee Chairman explained the background to an issue in respect of the Clevedon Pride Christmas lights and the Councils electricity point; they have been requested to meet with council representatives to discuss the matter.

14/414.6 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 11TH DECEMBER 2013

Minutes of the Environment & Property Committee meeting were presented and **AGREED**.

Part 1

(EP 14/368 QUOTATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF “DOG ON LEAD” AND “NO DOGS” SIGNS AND AGREE BUDGET FOR INSTALLATION COSTS.

Proposed seconded and **AGREED by 7 votes to 0** defer any decision on the signs for Herbert Gardens pending the Councils decision on 12th march 2014

14/368.2 “no dogs allowed except Guide Dog” for the Council building.

Proposed seconded and **AGREED by 7 votes to 0** to get 2 signs to be put on the entrance gate to the property from Company A)

AGREED see minute no 14/407

EP 14/369 RECEIVE NOTIFICATION THAT THE 10 YEAR LEASE FOR THE SKATE PARK ENDS ON 9TH NOVEMBER 2014; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL, IF UNDER CLAUSE 7.8, THE COUNCIL WISHES TO EXTEND THE LEASE BY A FURTHER 10 YEARS.

Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL by 7 votes to 0** that this Council writes to North Somerset Council and requests the extension of the current Skate Park lease from 9th November 2014 to 9th November 2024 on the existing terms.

AGREED by 18 votes to 0

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items; there were none

14/414.7 ALLOTMENTS – 24TH FEBRUARY 2014

Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, and **AGREED**.

There being no part 1 item the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items

AL 14/352.1.1 Cllr Garner offered to dispose of the concrete block.

Al. 14/357 in response to a question it was explained that this was a Committee decision not to pursue any costing to tarmac the allotment drive.

14/415 AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PER THE ATTACHED LIST

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the accounts for payment, as per the attached lists except

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to accept the quotation from OCS alarms

14/416 APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTS PAID PER THE ATTACHED LIST

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the retrospective accounts for payment, as per the attached list

In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that the utility suppliers are checked on a by-yearly basis to check that the most cost effective supply is being used.

14/417 TO RECEIVE REQUEST TO NOMINATE A GOVERNOR FOR YEO MOOR SCHOOL

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Pennycott should be the Town Council representative for the Community Co-Opted Governor

14/418 RECEIVES AND AGREE SIGNATURE OF THE LEASE FOR SALTHOUSE FIELD TENNIS COURT

A copy of the draft lease had been circulated with the agenda, members were informed that the town Council solicitor had looked at the document and proposed some minor amendments in relation to the legal aspect of the lease. Following discussion Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Town Clerk sign the lease subject to the solicitor's amendments and the marking of the access route on the lease plan.

14/419 RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 8

Members were reminded of the wording of Standing Order no 8 in that the questions must be notified to the Town Clerk 3 clear days before the meeting and it is only under this agenda item can those question be heard.

Members were asked that a sound system suitable for those with hearing aids be obtained for the Council Chamber to assist with councillors keeping up with the debate; **AGREED** the Town clerk to get costs.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

APROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....