



Public Services Committee  
Thursday 30 November 2017 - 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors E Jaquin [Chairman], Mrs W Clark, J Dawson, R G Heseltine, Mrs P Heseltine, P Madeley and Mrs K McIntyre.

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer] and Les Chandler [Estate Manager].

Also present: Councillors C Clark and Kerr.  
Larry Mowlam [Grounds Maintenance Officer]  
Mark Robinson [Grounds Maintenance Officer]

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr M Emmerson (work commitments).

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 5 October 2017.

Minute 10 – Access to Middletown Allotments: the resolution was amended to read: “All future requests for access ... should be determined by the Chief Officer after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.”

Minute 11 – Restoration of Holy Trinity churchyard wall: some Members did not recall elements of the resolution but it was noted that this matter would be discussed under item 6 on the agenda.

Councillor C Clark joined the meeting.

Subject to these qualifications the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

6. To report and receive information arising from the minutes of items not on the Agenda from Members and the Chief Officer.

Item 8 – Request for play equipment at Millennium Green Play Area: officers have submitted a proposal to the *Samuel's Rainbow Campaign* for the installation of a 'seesaw rocker' which meets current standards and would minimise maintenance costs. If the proposal is accepted it will be put to the Committee for approval.

Item 9 – Request for a sign at Broughton Road Play Area: the Audit and Scrutiny Committee's investigation into the Council's handling of this issue is ongoing.

Item 11 - Restoration of Holy Trinity churchyard wall: the Director of Business and Environmental Services at North Yorkshire County Council has written to the Council about the condition of the wall. In view of ongoing uncertainties it was **RESOLVED** that the Chair, Vice-Chair and officers should draw up a response to the letter clarifying the roles of the parties involved and seeking a meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the restoration of the wall.

7. To consider recommendations from the Allotments Working Group.

To compensate the tenants of Allotments 37a, 38 and 39 at Broughton Road - for the loss of part of their plots to shading from neighbouring trees - it was **RESOLVED** that their annual rent should be reduced on a *pro rata* basis for the duration of their tenancies.

Because the allotments affected are still above the 100 sq metre threshold for a full-sized plot, even without the overshadowed portion, it was **RESOLVED** that the annual rent should revert to the full rent for a full-sized allotment when the allotments next change hands.

Given that the tenant of Allotment 10 at Middletown has misused the special dispensation granted in relation to their allotment it was **RESOLVED** to remove the facility and amend the tenancy agreement accordingly.

Since the rent for Allotments 125 and 126 at Middletown is overdue it was **RESOLVED** to reject the tenant's request for an additional access gate to the plots and terminate the tenancy if the amount owing is not paid by close of play on 8 December 2017.

8. To consider options relating to the timing and financing of:
- a. Installation of security fencing at Middletown Allotments
  - b. Disability Discrimination Act compliance and accessibility works at Pasture Close, Shortbank and Bold Venture Recreation Grounds

Given that fencing the full length of the boundary between Middletown Allotments and Greatwood School will resolve ongoing security issues, minimise disruption to the school

and allotment tenants, and deliver cost savings it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should accept a quotation for the work from Ashlands Fencing in the sum of £11,819.00.

Since it represents best value it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should accept a quotation from Aire Valley Surfacing, in the sum of £4,050, for the provision of improved play equipment accessibility measures at Shortbank Close Recreation Ground and Bold Venture Play Area.

9. To consider Budget provision for 2018-19 for the Council's estates functions.

Given the funding required to meet service levels in the Council's estates functions it was **RECOMMENDED** that the following proposed budgets should be put to the Council's Finance and Policy Committee for consideration in setting the Council's overall budget for 2018-19:

	£
Allotments	9,955
Recreation Grounds	25,540
Highways Verge Grass-Cutting	7,980
Churchyards and Burial Grounds	13,540
Street Furniture	2,855
Street Lighting	9,161
Tree and Hedge Work	4,595
Statues and Memorials	455
Public Conveniences	31,185

It was also **RECOMMENDED** that the following budgets should be set for revenue projects in 2018-19:

	£
Replacement of another of the High Street trees.	1,610
Refurbishment of path edgings at Christ Church.	520

It was also **RECOMMENDED** that the following budgets should be set for capital projects in 2018-19:

	£
Provision of improved play equipment accessibility measures at Pasture Close Recreation Ground.	9,395
Installation of a new allotments access road and pedestrian footway at Middletown Recreation Ground.	50,000
Installation of safety surfacing for the climbing net at Burnside Recreation Ground.	9,300
Installation of security fencing along the northern boundary of Middletown Allotments.	6,700
Installation of security fencing along the southern boundary of Middletown Recreation Ground.	21,275
Relocate and level the football pitch at Raikes Road Recreation Ground.	3,090
Provision of a kerbed tarmac path from the entrance to Millennium Green Play Area to Whinny Gill Road.	4,400
Provision of improved play equipment accessibility measures at Raikes Road Recreation Ground.	15,750
Installation of land drainage measures at Shortbank Recreation Ground.	3,000
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In addition it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council should:

- Acquire a suitable fuel card to minimise expenditure on fuel and oil.
- Place an order with Balmers GM Limited for a new SCAG SWZ48A hydro-drive walk-behind mower at a cost of £6,800 to improve workplace safety and service delivery, and minimise grass-cutting costs.
- Purchase a new Batesons SBN85 drive-on drive-off trailer to facilitate the deployment of grass-cutting equipment and to minimise costs.
- Seek to acquire a tipping licence if it will reduce the Council's waste disposal costs.
- Replace its obsolete low pressure sodium street-lighting columns (SOX) on a phased basis over the next four years, funding the programme from the Council's street-lighting revenue budget.
- Fit a shield to streetlight STC 023 on Cawder Mews, off Cawder Lane, to prevent light pollution.

- Extend the contract with Bulloughs Cleaning Services Limited for the cleaning and securing of Coach Street Public Toilets until 31 March 2019 at an additional cost of £250 a year.
- Transfer £10,000 to the Council's Churchyard Wall Reserve to cover expenditure on surveys, condition monitoring and professional fees incurred prior to construction work being approved.

10. To receive any updates regarding:

Skipton Business Improvement District (BID):

- a. Christmas Markets and Christmas Lights: funding has been approved for this year's Christmas Markets and Christmas Lights 'switch-on', and for next year's Christmas Lights.
- b. 'Visit Skipton': the tourism initiative has been approved.
- c. CCTV: the possibility of installing CCTV in selected parts of the town centre is being investigated.
- d. BID Renewal: a sub-group has been established to guide the renewal process and the Chief Officer has been asked to become a member.

Skipton Market:

- a. High Street gas main replacement: work is scheduled to begin in January 2018 - with phased closures of both Otley Street and Jerry Croft - and could extend to the end of February. Meetings have been held with Northern Gas Networks and the market traders who will be affected by the gas main replacement, to shed some light on the timetable and scheduling of the works and the arrangements for 'loss-of-trade' compensation. Those meetings have addressed most of the concerns surrounding the works but it remains unclear whether the Council will be compensated for its lost revenue.
- b. National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) Awards: Skipton has been nominated for both *Best Small Market* and *Britain's Favourite Market*. The final shortlist for the latter is due to be announced shortly and Skipton is hopeful of being one of the chosen six.
- c. Christmas Markets: additional stalls will be accommodated on Sheep Street this year and some new entertainment has been arranged. Around 70 coaches have been booked in for both weekends which is on a par with 2016.

Footfall Counter data: across the UK footfall is falling year on year but in contrast Skipton continues to show an upward trend with nearly 80,000 visitors recorded in the week to 20 November 2017.

11. To receive notification of matters that Members would like included on a future agenda.

None.

Meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

Chairman: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....