

Public Services Committee
Thursday 8 December 2016 - 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors R G Heseltine (Chairman), C Clark, Mrs W Clark, J Dawson, Mrs P Heseltine, E Jaquin, and Mrs K McIntyre.

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer), Les Chandler (Estate Manager) and Wendy Allsopp (Committee Services 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 Councillor P Madeley due to him being on holiday.

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

Councillor Jaquin declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to agenda item 7 given his association with Yorkshire Housing.

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 8 September 2016.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 were accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting.

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

Grass Verges – Cllr Dawson has been contacted by Skipton Building Society (SBS) regarding the cutting of grass verges on the Bailey outside their headquarters. SBS has agreed to maintain the verges with immediate effect.

Football nets at Raikes Road Recreation Ground – The Council had written to Mr George Mavor.

7. To undertake the quarterly review of the non-routine maintenance schedule.

Council members **RESOLVED** to replace the degraded plaque, in memory of Mrs Danvers-Colquhoun, located on a bench outside the Town Hall.

Members reviewed the tasks listed in the Non-Routine Maintenance Schedule and **NOTED** works required.

Whilst discussing matters the Committee were informed that:

Wilderness Woods – The Council's Grounds Staff have removed detritus from the roadside gully to prevent flooding at the Otley Road gate.

Millennium Green Play Area - Yorkshire Housing no longer own the properties bordering the fencing.

North Parade – Horton Landscaping are currently refurbishing the MUGA. The area affected by sewage is due to be worked on in mid-December by Yorkshire Water. Officers are hoping that turf can be laid rather than grass seeding.

It was **AGREED** to remove the installation of a 'No Ball Games' sign at **Broughton Road Play Area** from the schedule.

It was also **AGREED** that the Town Council should not meet the cost of providing decorative railings at the front of the church since its responsibility extends only to maintenance of the church yard not the provision of improvements.

8. To determine how best to invest the developer payment allocated to the Town Council for play equipment at Raikes Road Recreation Ground.

It was **AGREED** to wait until the consultation has taken place then re-visit this issue.

9. To determine whether the Council should accept the recommendations arising from the November meeting Allotments Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations from the Allotments Working Group meeting held on 3 November 2016.

Issues surrounding improvements to the access from Pinhaw Road would be discussed by the Council when it is known whether Section 106 monies might be available to finance the work.

10. To receive updates regarding:

The perimeter wall at Holy Trinity Church – Officers have discussed matters with Reverend James who is content with the footpath being widened or with the footpath being diverted through the church yard. The Archaeologist is yet to look at the area.

A meeting of all parties would be organised to progress the project.

Projects and Initiatives being supported by the Skipton Business Improvement District (BID) – The BID has agreed to help fund the Christmas Market, new uniforms for the Town Ambassadors, the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) scheme and Puppet Festival along with a ‘ginnel’ improvement scheme and promotion of the ‘Visit Skipton’ brand via the internet and social media.

The Market Management Group (MMG) – The Chief Officer updated Members on a recent trader issue.

11. To consider the Public Services Committee elements of the Council’s Budget provision for 2017-2018 and make recommendations to the Finance & Policy Committee.

Councillor W Clark suggested that this item should be postponed to allow Members more time to study the papers.

The Chief Officer advised that heavy workload and time constraints meant that additional information would be fed into the system further down the line. Members were assured that no final decisions would be made this evening but, that it would be useful to have an indication of Member’s preferences.

Councillor Mrs Clark said that she felt that the Committee could not make an informed decision and would like a meeting when all figures are available and objects to budget being discussed.

The Chairman, Councillor R G Heseltine, said he was prepared to call an additional meeting. However, it was **AGREED** to discuss the papers submitted to Members at this time.

The following observations were recorded as needing further discussion by the Finance and Policy Committee:

Skipton Gala – Additional financial assistance to the Gala Committee should be considered in more detail.

Christmas Light Switch-on event – The 2016 event had been arranged by the Manager of Craven Court Shopping Centre with no input from the Council. It was **NOTED** that any arrangements for a 2017 event should be discussed further.

Urban Grass-Cutting – The Committee suggested that this service should NOT be extended to Wensleydale Avenue, the canal towpath and Cawder Road and that, going forward would only be considered on an annual basis as part of the budget process.

Statues and Memorials – Members requested that that specialist cleaning of the cenotaph is NOT included within the 2017-2018 budget.

Middletown Recreation Ground – Discussion about access improvements from Pinhaw Road should be deferred until the Council knows what funding it might receive.

Members were content with all other recommendations in the papers submitted including extending the Grounds Maintenance agreement with CDC for a further two years.

Members agreed to recommend to Finance and Policy that the allotment rent for a standard plot be increased by £5.00 to £80.00 with effect from 1st October 2017.

12. To receive notification on matters that members would like included on a future agenda.

Footfall counter data.

Recreation ground/ Play area review.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm