



Public Services Committee  
Thursday 10 August 2017 - 6.30 pm

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

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

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 Mrs W Clark (holiday),

Absent: Cllr M Emmerson.

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

Cllr Jaquin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 on the agenda - installation of a dog bin at Middletown Recreation Ground - having been involved in a debate about the installation of dog bins in his role as a District Councillor.

Cllr Jaquin also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 on the agenda – s106 agreement for the Aldersley Avenue development – since, independently, he is tabling comments on the proposed development with Craven District Council.

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 13 July 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

Cllr Mrs McIntyre joined the meeting.

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

None.

Cllr Mrs Heseltine joined the meeting.

7. To consider issues relating to the safety of the access road at the southern end of the Middletown Allotments site.

Given the increasing number of incidents and the threat to public safety it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should:

- Write to all of the allotment tenants at Middletown recommending strongly that they should avoid using motorised vehicles on the access roadway from East Castle Street up to the southern end of the site and that they should take special care when using the access on foot.
- Erect appropriate signs at both ends of the roadway offering the same advice.
- Alert the landowner, Craven District Council, to the advice being given to the Town Council's allotment tenants and to other users of the roadway, and strongly suggest that the roadway should be closed in the interests of public safety.

8. To determine whether the Council should accept the recommendations arising from the July meeting of the Allotments Working Group.

To avoid extending the decision process further it was **RESOLVED** that no changes should be made to existing arrangements which allow for all decisions relating to the allotments to be made by officers in accordance with Town Council policy, with appeal to the Public Services Committee whose decision is final.

Where a tenant lodges an appeal against a Termination Notice issued for a breach of clauses 3.3.2 and/or 3.3.3 (tenant behaviour) it was **RESOLVED** that an additional clause should be inserted into all future tenancy agreements as follows:

“3.16.1 Where a tenancy has been terminated for a breach of clauses 3.3.2 and/or 3.3.3 the tenant concerned shall be suspended from attending the allotment site pending the outcome of the appeal.”

To overcome the problems associated with keeping cockerels on allotments in residential areas, but to avoid penalising genuine tenants who wish to breed from their hens, it was **RESOLVED** that allotment tenants should be allowed to keep up to two cockerels within the overall limit of twelve hens or rabbits per tenant.

9. To decide whether an additional dog bin should be installed at Middletown Recreation Ground.

Given that the Lead Member for a Greener Craven, District Councillor Lis, has stated that the District Council will install a new dog waste bin, for a fee of £210 where appropriate - and empty it routinely once installed - it was **RESOLVED** to ask the District Council to install a new dog bin at Middletown Recreation Ground at the end of the footpath between nos 17 and 21 Pinhaw Road.

10. To note the proposed allocation of funds to Shortbank Recreation Ground and Middletown Allotments in the s106 agreement for the Aldersley Avenue development.

Because it is in a good position to determine the most appropriate allocation of funds between the two sites it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should ask the District Council to allow it some flexibility in applying the £80,000 earmarked for Shortbank Recreation Ground and Middletown Allotments in the suggested s106 agreement for the proposed Aldersley Avenue development.

11. To consider excluding the press and public for consideration of item 12 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public for consideration of item 12 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

12. To consider a request to transfer the tenancy of Plot 10 at Middletown Allotments.

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13. To receive any updates regarding:

Skipton BID:

- Annual General Meeting: the AGM is on the 5 September 2017; since the Town Council is a levy-paying member of the BID all Councillors can attend the meeting and, now that it controls three separate areas of the Market, the Council has three votes in any ballot.
- Business Plan: the BID Business Plan is being updated; final proposals will be brought to the Town Council for consideration.
- Town centre ginnels: as part of its ongoing project BID has now drawn up refurbishment plans to make the ginnels cleaner, brighter and more accessible and to standardise and improve the signage; the biggest problem the project has faced has been identifying the ownership of each ginnel.
- *Visit Skipton*: the BID continues to contribute to the cost of the *Visit Skipton* branding.

- Christmas lights: similarly the BID continues to make a significant contribution towards the cost of the Christmas lights and to the extension of the lights from the High Street down to Mill Bridge.

#### Market Management Group:

- Next meeting: the next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 16 August 2017 and will consider, amongst other things, traders' concerns about the pricing and measurement of pitches.
- Business Plan: the existing plan, which has expired, is being updated.
- Scheduled road works: the market on the east side of the High Street will be disrupted from January 2018 while Northern Gas Networks replaces the existing gas main which runs beneath the setts in that area; a compensation scheme will be put in place for the traders affected.

#### Footfall Counter data:

- Swadford Street: the footfall counter on Swadford Street has been in place for twelve months so the Council will soon have comparative data on a year on year basis.
- High Street: in spite of assurances from the contractor that it would not be affected the footfall counter on the High Street is currently inoperable because of building works. The supplier, *Springboard*, has a nationally-agreed formula for estimating data during such instances.
- Skipton Gala 2017: the Gala is a significant local event but the footfall for the day was well below the average for a Saturday.

#### Holy Trinity Churchyard wall:

NALC has yet to confirm that the Council will be acting *intra vires* if it looks to move the wall back in order to widen the pedestrian footway but, provided this confirmation is received soon the project plan indicates that the scheme will be complete by March 2020.

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

Review of the Council's high-risk activities.

Meeting closed at 7.47 pm.