



Public Services Committee
Thursday 5 October 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 Clark and Kerr.
One member of the public.

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

Mrs S Carpenter of Pendle Street made Members aware of a report she had received of one or more users of the Broughton Road Play Area allegedly preventing some parents and their children from entering the facility. She asked if the Council would consider installing a sign advising that the play area is open to all.

9. To consider a request for a sign at Broughton Road Play Area.

Given that the play area at Broughton Road, as with all the Council's play facilities, is open to residents and visitors alike it was **RESOLVED** that the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader should meet with relevant parties in the community to resolve any issues surrounding people's use of the facility.

Mrs Carpenter left the meeting.

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 7 September 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 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.

None.

7. To undertake the quarterly review of the Non-Routine Maintenance Schedule.

Members reviewed the tasks listed in the Non-Routine Maintenance Schedule and **NOTED** current priorities.

8. To consider a request for the installation of play equipment at Millennium Green Play Area.

Since the Town Council will have to meet the associated maintenance costs it was **RESOLVED** that the Council's Estate Manager should:

- liaise with *Samuel's Rainbow* to finalise the specification for the additional item of play equipment which the Campaign would like to see installed at Millennium Green Play Area and for which it proposes to raise the funds; and
- present the final proposal to the Council's Public Services Committee for consideration in due course.

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

10. To consider a request for access to the Middletown Allotment site.

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The meeting returned to public session.

11. To consider matters relating to the restoration of the churchyard wall at Holy Trinity.

Since The Bailey wall of the churchyard at Holy Trinity cannot be restored until the required funds are in place it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should identify, as far as is possible, reliable sources of finance for the work required.

Given that the Council's structural engineer has advised that the wall could collapse before 2025, it was also **RESOLVED** that the Council should contact the Highway Authority to:

- report that the wall could collapse before the Council has put in place the funds required to restore it;
- recommend that The Bailey is closed to traffic in the meantime to ensure public safety;
- suggest that the Highway Authority should consider propping the wall until such time as it can be restored; and
- advise that the Council will provide the Highway Authority with regular readings from the ground movement sensors which have been installed in the churchyard.

12. To decide whether the Council should undertake highways verge grass-cutting in 2018-19 and, if so, how the service should be delivered.

Given the level of public demand, and because completing highways verge grass-cutting in-house provides greater flexibility, efficiency and control, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should continue to provide the service in-house.

With the potential for delivering even better value for money it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should investigate the feasibility of investing in more efficient and effective mowing equipment for 2018-19.

13. To receive any updates regarding:

Skipton BID:

- a. Renewal: the BID renewal documentation is being prepared on the basis of a simplified business model focussing on investment in events and tourism, environmental issues, and business support. As part of the renewal process the BID is looking to reduce the number of levy payers so as to reduce the burden on small businesses.
- b. Street cleansing: although it cannot replace existing local authority services it is permitted to enhance them where appropriate so the BID is investigating the

feasibility of delivering additional street cleansing in areas adjoining the main shopping area. 17/76

- c. Body cameras: a body camera has been acquired but it can only be deployed once Members have approved a usage protocol which meets the strict rules governing the use of such equipment. A protocol is being drafted and will be submitted to Council for consideration in due course.

Skipton Market: the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) invited the Chief Officer to make a presentation at its annual conference explaining the secrets of Skipton Market's success. The talk summarised what the Town Council has done to make Skipton a multi- award-winning market and from the feedback supplied by NABMA the presentation was very well received.

Footfall Counter data:

- a. Yarndale: footfall for the Festival weekend showed a 1.2% increase on the previous year. Interestingly the footfall figures for the same weekend in the rest of Yorkshire, and indeed the whole country, showed a decrease on 2016.
- b. Puppet Festival: footfall for the festival weekend was up 15% on the same weekend last year but since the footfall counters were not in place in 2015 comparative data is not available for the previous Puppet Festival. However, the footfall during the Sunday of the Festival was considerably more than a 'normal' Sunday.

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

None.

Meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: