



Public Services Committee
Thursday 6 April 2017 - 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors R G Heseltine [Chairman], Mrs W Clark, C Clark, Mrs P Heseltine and Mrs K McIntyre.

Also present: Councillor J Kerr

6 members of the public.

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.

Mrs C Jackson of Brougham Street, Skipton advised that one of the tenants at Middletown Allotments is behaving very badly, bullying her and several other plotters. She reported that his unpleasant behaviour came to a head at a recent meeting of the Middletown Allotment Association when he accused her - without justification - of being a thief and a liar.

Mrs Jackson's husband, Mr P Jackson, confirmed that this tenant's bullying of his wife regularly reduced her to tears. He said that the tenant concerned had also threatened *him*, calling him "a big lump of lard" and telling him that he would "see you up here on a dark night". Mr Jackson also advised that he knew of one tenant who had given up their allotment because of the bullying.

Mrs M Rimmer of Fairfax Street, Skipton reported that the tenant concerned had turned other allotment tenants against her, the Jacksons, and several other tenants, to the extent that "none of the plotters in his shadow will talk to us now".

Mr M Hinchcliffe of The Close, Skipton advised that he too had suffered "verbal and physical threats" from the tenant concerned – for more than two years. He reported that this particular tenant regularly enters onto his plot without permission – sometimes to trim boundary hedges and at other times "to move things around". He said that "he does this just to wind me up".

Mrs C Mitchell of The Green, Skipton expressed the view that a 'bus shelter is required on Harrogate Road, near Overdale Park, to cater for people travelling towards Leeds. She said that at present, in bad weather, passengers have to wait in the shelter on the opposite side of the carriageway and then "dash across the road when they see their 'bus coming". This is bad enough for young people but for the elderly and infirm it is "an accident waiting to happen".

Mrs Mitchell's daughter, Miss C Mitchell, reported that she sees elderly and infirm passengers struggling across the road in these circumstances on a regular basis.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Councillors J W Dawson and P Madeley (Craven District Council Spatial Planning Sub-Committee meeting) and E Jaquin (family commitment).

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 2 March 2017.

Members noted that Councillor J Dawson had attended the meeting on 2 March 2017 but had not been included in the list of those present.

Subject to that amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 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.

Grounds staff equipment: Members noted that work to identify the most-effective deal for the provision of smartphones to the Council's senior groundstaff is ongoing.

Mrs and Miss Mitchell left the meeting.

13. To consider a request for the Council's support for the provision of a 'bus shelter at Overdale Park.

Given the risks to public safety it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should write to North Yorkshire County Council supporting the request for a 'bus shelter on the north side of Harrogate Road, near the junction with Overdale Park, but making it clear that the Council cannot contribute towards the costs involved.

10. To consider issues relating to the drop-down bollard at the southern entrance to the Middletown Allotments site.

Since it accords with the recent vote taken by the Middletown Allotment Association it^{16/416} was **RESOLVED** that the drop-down bollard at the southern entrance to the Middletown Allotments site should be left down between April and September each year unless the prevailing weather conditions threaten to jeopardise the condition of the roadway.

Mr and Mrs Jackson, Mrs Rimmer and Mr Hinchcliffe left the meeting.

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 decide how to progress the work required to the perimeter wall at Holy Trinity churchyard.

Because a decision on whether to restore the boundary wall of the churchyard *in situ*, or move it back to allow the pedestrian footway on The Bailey to be widened, is dependent on whether the County Council is prepared to commit funds and expertise to the project it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, together with the Council's Chief Officer and Estate Manager, should meet with Area Manager, James Malcolm, to ascertain what involvement the Highways Authority is prepared to commit to.

9. To consider what action the Council should take following the receipt of further information concerning the land contaminated by sewage at North Parade Recreation Ground.

In the interests of public safety it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should advise Yorkshire Water that it should:

- (a) confirm that all necessary steps have been taken to repair the leaking sewer and to ensure that no further contamination can take place at North Parade Recreation Ground; and, once the leak has been sealed
- (b) excavate and remove the affected turf and shallow soils, and replace with clean top soil and clean turf.

11. To decide whether to approve a request to install goal nets at Raikes Road Recreation Ground.

Given the number of issues involved it was **RESOLVED** that it would not be appropriate to install goal nets at Raikes Road Recreation Ground in advance of a full review of the facilities at the site, and before the full extent of the money available for enhancement is known.

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12. To reconsider the Council’s decision not to install a dog bin on Moorview Way.

Given the lack of available funds for both installation and ongoing maintenance it was **RESOLVED** that the Council is unable to support the provision of a dog bin on Moorview Way.

16. To receive any updates regarding: projects and initiatives being supported by Skipton BID; the Market Management Group; and Footfall Counter data.

Skipton BID is supporting both Sheep Day and the Puppet Festival, but has been forced to defer a decision about whether to provide funding for Skipton Gala because the organising committee failed to attend a scheduled meeting with the BID Board.

Skipton BID is also promoting the *Association of Town and City Management’s* night-time accreditation scheme (‘Best Bar None’) for licensed premises in Skipton, which encourages licensed premises to prevent anti-social behaviour. The initiative is well-established nationally but the Skipton scheme will be the first in Yorkshire.

14. To consider excluding press and public for consideration of item 15 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude all press and public.

15. To discuss an issue relating to the administration of the Middletown Allotment site.

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The meeting returned to public session.

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

None.

Meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: