



Public Services Committee
Thursday 6 August 2015 - 7.00 pm

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

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer] and Brett Butler [Town Centre Manager]

Six members of the public were in attendance.

1. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

Ms Vicky Maher was in attendance and spoke in relation to item number 14 (Bold Venture Recreation Ground trees). Ms Maher stated that the current trees in situ were blocking out all light as the trees were immensely dense. She also stated that the cherry trees were pushing the fence in the immediate vicinity and damaging the walls. Ms Maher would prefer if the trees could be removed and is ok with the officer's recommended replacements.

Mrs Moira Geldard was in attendance and also spoke in relation to item 14. The issues were stated as being the same as Ms Maher's and included the denseness of the current trees blocking out all natural light. Like Ms Maher, Mrs Geldard stated she would prefer the trees to be removed and was also ok with the replacement trees being planted as per officer recommendations.

Mr Michael Shadenburg of Plot 10, Middletown Allotments spoke in relation to item 10.

Mr Shadenburg explained that he still had concerns relating to vehicular access to his allotment garden. Mr Shadenburg stated he had seen the report put together by officers and is perfectly happy that a decision be made as part of a democratic vote asking allotment tenants on plots 1 – 25 to vote by secret ballot to determine the outcome.

Mr Shadenburg requested that an option 'd' be added to the vote which he stated should read: 'to lay a split path/roadway for vehicle access'.

Mr Geoff Harrison of Plot 2, Middletown Allotments also spoke in relation to item 10 on the agenda and stated he would prefer the bollard is moved towards the West (nearer to the recreational playground).

Mr Justus Ndiko of Plot 20, Middletown Allotments stated he had issues with parking and the current bollard being in place which didn't allow him access to his plot when needed to transport heavy goods/items. Mr Ndiko would like the post removing.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies given from:

Cllr Calvin Dow (work commitments).

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

Cllr Mrs K McIntyre, non-pecuniary on item seven due to working for Yorkshire Housing.

Cllr E Jaquin, non-pecuniary on item 11 as Mr Jaquin is a Craven District Council nominee to Yorkshire Housing.

Cllr R G Heseltine, non-pecuniary on item 11 as Mr Jaquin is a Craven District Council nominee to 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 2 July 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 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.

Dog fouling (Cllr Mrs W Clark) to look at bio-degradable spray paint.

7. To determine the Council's formal response to the developer's proposals for play provision within the proposed North Parade Housing Development.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should advise the local planning authority that the designs for the toddlers' play area and the Adventure Trail are acceptable, but that the developer should be asked to include wildlife posts in the Adventure Trail and ensure wheeled access to the MUGA from all of the entrances to the recreation ground

And that in principle, the Town Council is prepared to accept liability for the new play provision, provided that mutually acceptable ten-year maintenance agreements can be put in place for both the toddler play area and the Adventure Trail and provided the land occupied by the Adventure Trail is transferred to the ownership of the Town Council for no more than a notional fee.

8. To consider matters relating to grass cutting on Keighley Road, Skipton.

It was **AGREED** that the Council should write formally to Bradleys Both Parish Council reminding it that the Town Council continues to undertake this work on its behalf and to request a contribution towards the ongoing costs.

It was **RESOLVED** to await an answer from Bradleys Both Parish Council before determining what action to take should they not agree to make a contribution.

9. To consider whether the Town Council should assume responsibility for cutting a grass verge on Otley Road.

Members discussed the item and **RESOLVED** to find out who the land owner is before any final decision or action was taken.

10. To consider whether motorised vehicles should be permitted on the path leading to plots 1-25 at Middletown Allotments.

Members **RESOLVED** that given there appears to be fundamental differences of opinion on the issue regarding this matter that the Council should arrange a secret ballot of the tenants of gardens 1 – 25 at Middletown Allotments to see whether or not motorised vehicles should be allowed to use the main pathway serving these plots.

It was **AGREED** that the options put to the tenants should be:

- a) That the bollard should remain in place to protect the pathway and no vehicular access should be allowed.
- b) That the bollard should remain in place to protect the pathway but limited access should be provided, on request, where a tenant needs to move bulky items or take a substantially sized delivery.
- c) That the bollard be removed during the summer months (April – September) but should remain in place at other times. The Council would reserve the right to replace the bollard during the summer period should the condition of the ground dictate.

Members **RESOLVED** not to add in a fourth item ('d') as requested by Mr Shadenburg.

11. To decide whether the Council should remove the hawthorn hedge at Middletown Allotments bordering 114-118 Greatwood Avenue.

It was **RESOLVED** given that it would be consistent with the Council's 'good neighbour' principles, and reduce annual maintenance costs, that the Council remove the hawthorn hedge at Middletown Allotments bordering 114-118 Greatwood Avenue.

12. To consider proposed changes to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement, Allotment Application Form and Allotment Allocation Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposed changes to the new Tenancy Agreement and Allotments Application and Allocation Policy are adopted.

It was also **AGREED** that section 2.1.1 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement is amended as follows:

The Tenant agrees to take the allotment garden situated on SITE and numbered XX from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016 (“the Term”) on an annual tenancy at the current annual rent of £69.00. If the Tenant remains in occupation with the authority of the Council after the last day of the Term this Tenancy shall continue from year to year as a contractual period tenancy terminable in the circumstances set out at clause 3.17 and subject to annual review of the rent pursuant to clause 2.2.

Members **AGREED** to tighten up the bonfire criteria and it was **RESOLVED** that bonfires should be not be allowed Monday to Saturday after 18:00 hours or at all on a Sunday.

It was further **RESOLVED** that due to the imminent move of Skibeden Household Waste Recycling Centre, that in schedule one of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement (Bonfires) – section three should remove the words pertaining to Skibeden and replace with ‘...or taken to the local Household Waste and Recycling Centre’.

It was **AGREED** that the Finance and Policy Committee is asked to ratify any changes.

13. To consider matters relating to finger post signage in Skipton town centre.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should seek external funding and if successful find an alternative location for the post and re-install it. Should no external funding be found, it was **AGREED** that the post should be disposed of.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring the issue of whether the Town Council should take on responsibility for all Skipton’s finger posts to a forthcoming Public Services meeting to be discussed.

14. To consider replacing trees at Bold Venture Recreation Ground.

It was **RESOLVED** given that it will prevent further damage to overhead cables and to the boundary wall that the Council should fell the two diseased cherry trees and the Leyland cypress in the South-East corner of Bold Venture Recreation Ground and replace them with two advanced nursery stock of alder buckthorn or whitebeam trees at the edge of the grassed area as close as possible to the location of the felled trees.

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

Dog fouling and marking with spray paint.
Adoption of Skipton's finger posts.

Meeting closed at 7.52 pm