



Skipton Town Council

Public Services Committee
Thursday 9 June 2016 - 7.00 pm

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

Also present: Councillor Kerr

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

Members noted that at least one member of the public was keen to address the meeting but was not yet in a position to do so. In the circumstances it was agreed that acceptance of representations from the Public should be temporarily deferred.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Clark to his first meeting as a member of the Public Services Committee.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

None.

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 28 April 2016.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2016 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.

Black Walk footpath: a letter, asking for expressions of interest in helping to improve the condition of the path, has been drafted and will be going to stakeholders in the near future.

Chairman:

Unauthorised access to recreation grounds and play areas: all residents who have unauthorised accesses from their property onto Council land have been notified that they must make good the boundary; this notification should be sufficient to ensure that the access does not create prescriptive rights over Council property.

Millennium Green Play Area: despite their best efforts neither the Council nor the Greatwood and Horse Close Community Association have been able to find a volunteer to lock the play area overnight.

Skipton Town Partnership: the Association of Town and City Management has advised officers that Skipton came over well in its recent feature on the BBC's *The One Show*.

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

Mrs Jackson of Moorview Way pointed out that if the access up to the southern section of Middletown Allotments is closed to motorised vehicles it will make life very difficult for the Council's tenants, especially those needing to transport heavy materials up the steep hill to their allotment. She expressed the view that it is heavy vans and lorries which are damaging the surface of the track and suggested that it would be better to install a height restrictor bar rather than a locked gate.

8. To consider the points raised by Middletown Allotments tenants at the annual Town Meeting.

Although the closure of the East Castle Street access to motorised vehicles will create difficulties for a number of tenants in the southern part of Middletown Allotments it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council must comply with the closure in the absence of a safe and legitimate alternative route.

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

Members noted that:

- Officers are liaising with the Royal British Legion over plans to undertake remedial work on the War Memorial gates into Aireville Park.
- The 'Skipton Town Council' brass plaque outside Barclays Bank Chambers has been removed and taken into store pending agreement with Craven District Council about its installation at the Town Hall.
- No refurbishment work will be carried out on any area of the Market setts unless there is a formal licence in place giving the Council control of the land on Market days.
- North Yorkshire County Council has issued an assurance that the paved path around the War Memorial will be made good in time for Armistice Day.
- Work to remove the vegetation overgrowing Carleton Road at the rear of 7-11

The Close has been completed.

- Funds are not currently available for the installation of site signs at Raikes Road Recreation Ground, Middletown Allotments, Millennium Green Play Area, North Parade Recreation Ground, Bold Venture Recreation Ground, Broughton Road Allotments, and Burnside Chapel Allotments.

Members also noted that the Council's grounds staff had completed a large number of jobs in the quarter, over and above the routine maintenance tasks which consume the majority of their time, and congratulated them on their performance. Given that one member of the grounds maintenance team, Dave Cheetham, will be retiring in July after long and excellent service it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should consider presenting him with a retirement gift of some kind to mark Members' appreciation of his efforts over the years.

9. To consider whether the Council should add a small amount of land on Wensleydale Avenue to its highways verge grass-cutting contract.

Given the lack of available funds and the fact that it seems to be maintained privately it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should not add the small area of grass verge at the eastern end of Wensleydale Avenue to its highways verge grass-cutting contract.

10. To receive updates regarding: the perimeter wall at Holy Trinity Church; projects and initiatives being supported by the Skipton Town Partnership; and the Markets Management Group

Holy Trinity: a meeting has been arranged with the Council's structural engineer and the County Council's Area Maintenance Manager to finalise arrangements for the surveys which are required before a scheme can be developed to resolve the issues with the boundary wall of the churchyard. The Council continues to work in partnership with all parties and has agreed that any costs not covered by grant funding will be shared appropriately.

Skipton Town Partnership: a grant of £10,000 to Skipton in Bloom has been approved and a footfall counter has been installed on Swadford Street; negotiations are underway with the County Council over the siting of an additional counter.

Skipton Market: the Markets Working Group has approved continuation of the rebate scheme in an effort to improve trader attendance on Mondays. It has also decided that traders should not be charged on the day of the 'Skipton Criterium' cycle race in July when the Market will have to close early. On the plus side the race organisers have agreed to advertise the Market at the televised event.

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

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

12. To

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The meeting returned to public session.

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

To review the Town Council's association with Skipton Gala.

Meeting closed at 8.19 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: