

MINUTES of a MEETING of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** of WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL
held on **Thursday 21st September 2017**, at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber at 28 High Street, Winslow.

Present: Cllrs Chambers (Chair), Castle (*ex officio*) Morton, and Wiseman

Clerk: C Loch

Absent: Cllrs Barry and Alman

Members of the Press and Public: Council administrator T Kaplan and one member of the public attended

A17/40	Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Barry (Apology accepted) and Cllr Alman. Cllr. Chambers was elected to Chair this meeting.
	Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation: None
A17/41	Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 27 nd July 2017: the Committee RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record.
	Matters Arising: None
	Items deferred from previous meeting: None
	Items delegated by Council: None
	Best Kept Village: Members noted the presentation of the Michaelis Cup and the encouraging attendance by residents.
	Recreation Ground: The Clerk reported that the replacement practice goals for general community use were on order and suitable nets, to meet H&S requirements for children when unattended, were being sourced. Delivery was expected in two to three weeks. Members noted that yet again the fence behind the OFFA had been damaged. Defensive planting was planned but had been deferred until the autumn when it was a more suitable time for planting.
	Street Furniture & Litter: Litter Bin outside Combined School: The Committee noted the request but felt it was not appropriate to install a bin outside the school. It was felt that the school should do more to encourage pupils not to litter public places but the Clerk could supply the school with a redundant bin to install within the grounds. Members also noted that parents dropping off children at the STFS were obstructing the A413 and causing a tailback. There was also a report of unruly behaviour and littering by pupils and the Clerk was asked to write to the Headmaster to ask his assistance in encouraging both parents and pupils to assist. Dog Bins : The Committee noted a residents concern that the removal of the dog bins from the corner of Cricketers Row and relocating the Copse Close bin to Sheep St. now left the entire section of town bordered by Elmfields Gate and Little Horwood Road without any bin. Members felt that residents should be prepared to walk further but would monitor the situation. Cycle Racks: Despite members concerns that this should have been done, the Clerk explained that it required the approval of BCC and that new planning requirements meant that BCC now had to be given notice of the proposed installation even though they had now approved it. Once the period of notice ran out the planning application could be submitted and if approved the installation could then be progressed.
	Allotments: A number of plots had been reallocated and the waiting list was down to three.
	Burial Ground: Members noted that the fees for the two year period from April 2018 had been finalised as resolved at the last meeting and would be the mean of the two proposals put forward by the Clerk.
A17/42	Devolved Services and Landscaping: The Clerk reported on devolved services. To keep the town tidy meant taking on work which was not covered by the Devolution agreement and also noted that the grant had already decreased and would reduce to zero over the next budget period. While this made it difficult to operate, as far as possible within the available budget the Clerks would try to carry out work to keep the streets, paths and green areas tidy. The budget for 2018-19 would be considered in the light of expenditure in the current year. BCC had indicated that they would address the Beamish Way path in October and it was RESOLVED that should BCC not undertake the work then WTC would do such improvements as the budget would allow to get the area under control. It was also noted that vegetation was obstructing the cycle path where it joined the Swanbourne Road and again this would be dealt with from WTC resources if BCC would not respond. The area behind the public hall was also untidy and while ownership of the right of way was not clear the Clerk undertook to have this attended to if at all possible. The Clerk noted that while members might feel that some projects were slow in completion there were a number of other matters being attended to not on the agenda. Besides the constant dealing with vandalism and minor repairs a good example was the repair of the cracked tarmac at the burial ground where it was being done in house at relatively little cost although requiring a large proportion of available staff hours.
A17/43	Playground: The Committee noted the problem of vandals winding the swings around the top bar and the application of anti-climb paint had not been done. The Clerk explained that as a formal decision had not been made the work could not be undertaken and it was RESOLVED that anti-climb paint be applied to the top section of the swing frame to discourage further vandalism. There were no other issues with playground maintenance.

A17/44	<p>CCTV: Members noted that Council had not approved the use of an independent contractor to advise on the best positioning of the Council's CCTV cameras. The Clerk explained that the essential issue lay in clearly defining the purpose of the cameras and the necessary policy and privacy assessments would follow without undue effort. This approach was required to meet current law and guidelines. The Clerk had circulated a paper on the background and issues to be addressed in finalising the CCTV policy and operation. As members felt unable to make a decision at this meeting the chairman asked that all read relevant paperwork and be prepared to deal with the matter at the next meeting.</p> <p>The wording of any CCTV signage was considered and it was RESOLVED that the circulated proposal be approved and that it be used to enable playground signage already approved to be completed.</p>
	<p>Budget – Members raised items to be considered in preparing the budget.</p>
	<p>Items for information:</p> <p>Neighbourhood Police Forum - Members noted that any matters had been reported at Council.</p> <p>Tomkins Park and Arboretum: Member considered the park and the Council decision that once the main infrastructure was in place it would come under the control of the Amenities Committee. They agreed that the Clerk be asked to place an item on the next Council agenda to propose that the main infrastructure items be now defined and approved to enable completion and control be transferred to Amenities.</p> <p>Next Meeting – The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 19th October.</p>
	<p><i>Meeting closed 8:46pm</i></p>

Signed: _____ (Chairman) at a Meeting on _____