



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.35 PM

AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING, IRNHAM ROAD, MINEHEAD TA24 5DW

The Meeting was recorded

Members are reminded that Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and Biodiversity

Present: Chair: Cllr T Bloomfield
Councillors: Cllr M Kingston-James, Cllr C Palmer*, Cllr M Palmer, Cllr H Rose
(denotes Somerset West and Taunton District "SWaT" Councillor)*

Officers in Attendance: Ms S Rawle - Clerk
Mr B Howe – Deputy Clerk
Mrs M Swallow - Notetaker

Members of the Press and Public: 0 members of the Press
0 members of the Public

Councillors Absent: Cllr A Berry

Due to a technical difficulty live streaming of the Meeting to Facebook was not possible: the recording was subsequently uploaded to the MTC Facebook page.

Cllr Bloomfield welcomed Councillors to the Meeting.

1353 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Bolton*, Cllr O Harvey, Cllr N Hercock, Cllr E Jones, Cllr A Kingston-James and Cllr T Venner*.

1354 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY DISPENSATIONS [In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members](#)

To receive and record any Declarations of Interest in respect of any matters included on the Agenda for consideration at this Meeting.

| Member | Minute | Interest | Time Period | Speak/Vote |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cllr C Palmer | All | SWaT Councillor | 2021 | Remained present, spoke and voted |

DISPENSATIONS

None.

1355 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the Meeting by Councillors who had been present.

Proposed by: Cllr Bloomfield **Seconded by:** Cllr M Palmer
Unanimously agreed by the appropriate Councillors.

1356 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION [Standing Order No 3e](#)

As there had been no requests to speak at the Meeting, adjournment was not necessary.

1357 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

Cllr Bloomfield reported the following:

1357.1 Three Christmas trees had been acquired by herself and the Amenities Team Manager - a large one for Wellington Square and two smaller ones for Alcombe and Minehead Hospital respectively, the latter in conjunction with Gateway Events. Cllr Bloomfield was pleased to confirm that one of the MTC electric vehicles had been used for this purpose.

1357.2 Remembrance Day would be marked by services at the War Memorial - 11.00 am on Thursday 11 November and 12 noon on Sunday 14 November at the Garden of Remembrance. The announcement was made on behalf of Cllr P Bolton, the Mayor.

1357.3 The Minehead Christmas Lights Switch-on would take place in Wellington Square at 6.30 pm on Friday 26 November 2021.

1358 TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR REMEDIAL WORK AT CROSS FARM PARK PLAY AREA FOLLOWING THE ROSPA SAFETY INSPECTION

The Clerk provided an overview to the Committee, following detailed discussion of the item at the previous evening's Finance and Staffing Meeting.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) undertook inspections of the various MTC play areas during the Summer and presented their findings within individual reports. Various minor issues were mentioned, which could be rectified by the MTC Amenities Team, but additionally more serious defects were highlighted at the Cross Farm play area which would require specialist remedial work.

Surfaces beneath some play equipment were disintegrating, after being in situ for over 15 years. Previous patch repairs undertaken in-house were no longer sufficient so replacement with a similar high quality 'wet pool' fast-draining and impact-absorbing rubber product was recommended.

Additionally, two items of play apparatus - the basket swing and roundabout - were in disrepair after 20 years of use and also required replacement.

The Clerk confirmed an existing budget for these purposes.

Councillors were referred to the Clerk's report, together with the three quotations obtained from play equipment contractors for the necessary work and replacement apparatus, which they had been furnished with prior to the Meeting. The Clerk stated that the first quotation was the preference, as the supplier had been used previously and also selected to install new equipment at three other sites - partly funding by Section 106 monies.

Cllr C Palmer indicated that a member of the public had enquired whether in view of the cumulative amount of work discount was obtainable from the supplier? The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a discount was built into the quotation supplied.

It was proposed that Full Council be recommended to approve the first quotation.

Proposed by: Cllr Bloomfield
Unanimously agreed.

Seconded by: Cllr M Kingston-James

1359 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON GRINDING RAILS FROM THE DEPUTY CLERK

The Deputy Clerk had researched the possibility of acquiring two grinding rails for the Irnham Recreation Ground, as agreed at a previous Full Council Meeting.

To purchase would cost £500, and certain regulations met regarding their location and to comply with public health and safety rules. Siting them would require a safety parameter of nine to 10 square metres of tarmac or concrete - tarmac costing approximately £100 per square metre therefore around £10,000 for two rails. The Deputy Clerk felt that as the total MTC budget for this project was £3,000 the costs would be prohibitive, not present value for money and therefore that the idea should not be pursued.

The Deputy Clerk further reported that after discussions with Minehead EYE it was felt an alternative option would be for MTC to hire or buy-in a portable skate ramp to trial during Spring/Summer 2022. However, as the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Irnham Recreation Ground was the only possible MTC site and it would be disruptive to that area, other suitable locations would have to be investigated - such as the seafront or car park areas (including the coach park) - however this would require permission from the landowner, SWaT.

The idea would be taken by Cllr C Palmer to the newly formed Minehead Planning Group for consideration.

In answer to Cllr M Palmer's question, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the purchase cost would be up to £30,000 including the transportation trailer but hiring costs would have to be ascertained.

Cllr C Palmer suggested that if purchased it could potentially be hired out to other Somerset towns: the Deputy Clerk confirmed that Minehead EYE had already broached this and was willing to hire from MTC and use in other areas - therefore a potentially lucrative initiative

for MTC. It was crucial that if the idea was pursued MTC collaborate with Minehead EYE as supervision would be required during all times of use.

It was proposed that Full Council be recommended to forego the idea of siting grinding rails, but instead investigate the possibility of either hiring or purchasing a portable skate ramp.

Proposed by: Cllr Bloomfield
Unanimously agreed.

Seconded by: Cllr C Palmer

It was then proposed that the Meeting should be closed.

Proposed by: Cllr M Palmer
Unanimously agreed.

Seconded by: Cllr C Palmer

The Meeting ended at 7.52 pm.