



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30 PM

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

The Meeting was digitally 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 P Bolton* (Mayor), Cllr E Jones, Cllr A Kingston-James (Deputy Mayor), Cllr C Palmer*, Cllr M Palmer, Cllr T Venner*
(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, Cllr N Hercock

Cllr Bloomfield welcomed all to the Meeting, including public viewing via the Facebook streaming service.

1226 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Apologies had been received from Cllr O Harvey, Cllr M Kingston-James and Cllr H Rose.

1227 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 Bloomfield	1232	Personal	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
Cllr Bolton	All	SWaT Councillor	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
	1232	Personal	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
Cllr Jones	1232	Personal	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
Cllr A Kingston-James	1232	Personal	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
Cllr C Palmer	All	SWaT Councillor	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted
Cllr Venner	All	SWaT Councillor	2021	Remained present, spoke and voted

DISPENSATIONS

None.

1228 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the Meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Bloomfield
Unanimously agreed.

Seconded by: Cllr C Palmer

1229 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.

1230 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

1230.1 Cllr Bloomfield was delighted to announce that Irnham Recreation Ground had won the "Field of the Year" award from the Somerset Playing Fields Association and congratulated all involved.

1230.2 Although there were very minor works to be completed, the newly updated and refurbished Summerland Road toilets had opened to the public on Monday 9 August.

1230.3 An event would take place at the Irnham Recreation Ground on Sunday 22 August: once plans were complete an advertising poster would be circulated to Councillors to share as necessary. Gateway Events was the main organiser, with Community Centre Manager Colin Johnson involved in respect of sports planning.

1231 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE CEMETERY

The Clerk confirmed that progress was being made in the planning of improvements to the pathways - particularly that from the Main Gate adjacent to the vehicle access, the path around the lychgate area and also the more heavily used path linking other areas.

In addition, it was planned to erect a weather shelter in the future. Cllr Bloomfield enquired as to the feasibility of adding a rainwater catcher to the weather shelter: the Deputy Clerk agreed it a possibility.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that three builders' quotations to tarmac the pathways were necessary - one had been sought and Councillors were invited to make recommendations as to the other two. There was a budget of £15,000 available to complete the works - a priority due to the health and safety implications of many potholes. Cllr Venner believed that some pathway areas had been affected by tree roots: it was accepted that the numerous pathways were not necessary and those particularly dangerous in that respect should simply be grassed over. Enquiry was made as to whether the forthcoming Minehead Town Council (MTC) Tree Survey would include the cemetery yews: in reply the Clerk said she would enquire, although was doubtful that anything other than the perimeter trees, particularly the poplars, would be considered.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that emphasis would be on tarmacking the main pathways, and perhaps narrowing those deemed too wide - but still allowing sufficient width for vehicular access.

It was also confirmed that to replace the current ad-hoc watering system watering cans were to be provided - with coin access.

1232 TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021 ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that £10,000 had been awarded to MTC from SWaT's "Welcome Back Fund". Following a request, confirmation had been received that the grant could be used for the improvement of Christmas light displays and Wellington Square's Christmas decoration - with the proviso that three quotations are provided. The Clerk felt this an ideal opportunity to overhaul MTC's current 'mishmash' of different lighting stock collected over the years. In keeping with usual practice, MTC would continue providing the wall mounted trees and lights outside local business accommodation. It was confirmed that MTC would meet imminently with Minehead Business Improvement District ("BID") and Gateway Events to form a partnership in moving forward with planning and actioning Christmas 2021 plans.

The Deputy Clerk suggested that MTC could use the fund to hire a professional company to provide the town Christmas decorating service - using the example of Wiveliscombe Town Council who had successfully done such. This would also relieve the Amenities Team of this specialised task. A budget of £15,000 in total was available for the project - and new, more energy efficient and modern lighting could be purchased.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk invited comments and suggestions from Councillors.

There followed discussion about the importance of MTC demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, Cllr Venner highlighting the recently released and damning report on climate change by the United Nations. It was suggested that reusable artificial trees could be used or alternatively potted trees which can be replanted.

It was also felt that there was too much emphasis on the Wellington Square and Parade areas, with The Avenue somewhat neglected, and that this should be addressed - as should lighting in Alcombe. Cllr C Palmer asked if the allocated funds were permitted for improving infrastructure in these areas, to which the Clerk responded that she was unsure but would clarify with SWaT.

Suggestion was made that The Avenue was an area which could benefit from year-round lighting: the Deputy Clerk said this was possible with controlled lighting which would enable appropriate adjustment for the Christmas period.

The Deputy Clerk explained that a decision on Christmas arrangements would be required as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to action. It was decided that this subject would be discussed at the Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 31 August.

1233 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE ALLOTMENT SITES

Cllr M Palmer, Chair of the Allotments Advisory Group, apologised that due to technical difficulties she had been unable to produce the report for the Meeting but would instead defer this to the September Meeting of the Amenities and Environment Committee.

1234 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cllr Bloomfield concluded the Public Meeting by thanking those viewing via the live streaming process.

It was resolved to exclude members of the press and public.

Proposed by: Cllr Bloomfield
This was unanimously agreed.

Seconded by: Cllr A Kingston-James

The Public Meeting ended at 8.00 pm.