



## MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM

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

The Meeting was recorded and broadcast live on the MTC Facebook page

*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 C Palmer  
Councillors: Cllr J Bonar (Deputy Chair), Cllr M Palmer, Cllr B Hodson,  
(\* denotes Somerset West and Taunton District "SWaT" Councillor)
- Officers in Attendance:** Ms S Rawle – Clerk  
Mr B Parker – Operations Manager  
Mrs M Porter – Assistant Clerk
- Members of the Press and Public:** 0 members of the Press  
0 members of the Public.
- Councillor Absent:** Cllr C Gilberto
- 348 **To receive** Apologies for Absence  
Cllr A Lawton

349 **To receive** Councillors' Declarations of Interest and any Dispensations.

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members

Member	Minute	Interest	Time Period	Speak/Vote
Cllr C Palmer	All	SWaT Councillor	2022	Spoke and voted

Dispensations

None.

350 **To approve Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Proposed:** Cllr C Palmer                      **Seconded:** Cllr B Hodson

All in favour

351 **To adjourn** the Meeting for Public Inclusion [Standing Order No 3e](#)

No-one had asked to speak.

**352 To receive** Update from the Coronation Group - Ben Parker

The Greener Minehead Advisory Group has been working on the development as part of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Gardens, and part of this wider project, has been looking at planting a new hedgerow along Seaward Way, hotel and MTC boundaries.

One alternative idea that has been suggested is that MTC fund and organise the hedgerow to be planted by local school children using native hedging whips. The idea will need to be costed and the local school will need to be contacted to see if there is any interest and appetite for this.

The provisional idea would see MTC staff prepare the ground and support the planting project that would take place through the school term 5 (17<sup>th</sup> April – 26<sup>th</sup> May), which is in the term that the Coronation falls within.

MTC would then provide the aftercare, maintenance through watering and weeding. The community event could also include a commemorative plaque.

- 353 **To discuss** Proposed new entrance path to Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden – Ben Parker
- The Greener Minehead Advisory Group met at the gardens to plan the improvements. It is work in progress and will start with installing a new entrance path to the gardens. The estimated cost for the work is £850.00, and will be a welcome addition.
- 354 **To discuss** rewilding of MTC areas and county grass cutting 2023- Ben Parker
- Minehead Town Council recognises its duty to lower its environmental footprint and has been trialling a reduction to the grass cutting schedule, leaving some areas in our parks and open space to rewild. The feedback from the community has been positive and MTC plan to extend to other MTC and some part County Council areas. We received a subsidy from County to cut the verges in Minehead and will continue to cut these areas and will recommend that lampposts, street signs etc can only be trimmed around every other visit.
- The rewilding areas will be left to grow throughout the traditional grass cutting season and will receive a single cut at the end of the summer/autumn in September/October.
- 355 **Update** Wellington Square, Asset Transfer – Sam Rawle
- The asset has been transferred from the District Council to Minehead Town Council and some light remedial work to tidy up the square has started including the assessment on the condition of the Queen Ann statue. The asset will be added to our winter maintenance programme.
- 356 **Update**, Changing Places Toilets, Summerland, Car Park – Ben Parker
- The work is progressing well, and it scheduled to finish on time.
- Minehead Town Council now own the area next to the entrance (what was the last disabled parking bay) and the land at the back of the changing places toilet and is considering fencing that area off from the public.
- There is a new location of the entrance door. There is no requirement for an access ramp and, because of this, there will be one railing coming out at approximately 3 meters from the building. It will block off most of the old parking area and allow users to both access and use the space safely whilst stopping cars parking to close to the entrance.
- An additional camera will be added to the existing system to cover the entrance area.
- In order to receive ‘Changing Places’ status, the work will need to be signed off by the relevant body. This may take a week to two after the works are completed. We would recommend that the toilet remains closed until ‘Changing Places’ status has been received as we would then be able to have an opening ceremony and promote the toilet as well and be eligible to claim the full grant funding.

357 **To receive** update, Solar Lamp Post, at bottom of Marshfield Road

The solar light was installed 3 weeks ago. It is on Minehead Town Council Land, who will maintain and monitor the impact. MTC welcome feedback from the community and Sam will contact lady who originally requested a light as the footpath is poorly lit on her walk home from work.

358 **To receive** update on Quay West toilet refurbishment.

MTC has received 4 tenders for the refurbishment. We are liaising with 2 local companies and will report back at the next Full Council meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr C Palmer

**Seconded:** Cllr J Bonar

Agreed with all in favour to close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm