

**MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL**

Agenda for the Operations Advisory Group Meeting

of Minehead Town Council to be held on

Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 10.30 am at

the Town Council Offices, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead, TA24 5BP

Present: Councillors C Palmer, M Palmer, A Lawton, B Hodson

Apologies: None

In Attendance: H Nathanson (Town Clerk), B Parker (Operations Manager)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive disclosures of unregistered or other interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the Meeting.

No interests were declared.

3. To elect a Chair of the Operations Advisory Group.

Councillor Hodson was elected as Chair.

4. To discuss the proposed response to the Public Spaces Protection Order consultation about dog control with specific reference to Town Council-owned land.

Councillors had agreed to respond individually to the PSPO regarding the beach and Blenheim Gardens and the following single Town Council response was recommended for land owned by MTC:

Irnham Road Recreation Ground Dog Exclusion- high use area

Millennium Rose Garden Dog Exclusion – this is MTC's most 'formal' garden

King George V Playing Field Dogs on Leads - used for both adult and youth football

Cross Farm Park, Alcombe Dogs on Leads - play equipment and regular child users

Cross Farm Park Kindergarten Dog Exclusion - play area specially for under 5's and fenced

Periton Play area Dog Exclusion - fenced play area within a large field

King George Play Area Dog Exclusion - fenced play area within a large field

5. To discuss a proposal from Somerset Council to transfer ownership of the allotments land at Periton Lane, Periton Way, Orchard Road and Marshfield to the Town Council.

Councillors discussed whether it was necessary to conduct a legal transfer or whether there would be rights from having managed the land for so long. They also considered that it might be possible for MTC to apply to the Land Registry for the deeds rather than paying legal costs.

Overall, it was recommended that MTC accepts the proposed land transfers and investigate whether or not the legal work could be costed as one piece of work. Further quotes will be sought.

6. To discuss the arrangements between MTC and the Bowling Club including anti-social behaviour around Irnham toilets.

The letter from Minehead Bowling Club was received regarding balls being thrown or kicked over from the Recreation Ground and councillors were sympathetic to members about this issue. The suggestion of installing a high net around the Club was discussed but it was agreed that the cost was likely to be prohibitive and may not actually provide a solution to anti-social behaviour.

An alternative solution might be to reinstall the stand-alone high fence/net which used to be on the Recreation Ground where the outside gym is now located and which was used as a goal. Discussion needs to be had about where it could be safely sited and this will be looked at.

Councillors recommended that MTC write back to the Bowling Club to explain and to let them know that a Community Centre Working Group will be set up which can look into these matters in more detail. It was also suggested that the Operations Manager visit the Club to gain a better understanding of the issue.

7. To agree the need and timeframe for the repairs to the Queen Anne statue on Wellington Square.

Councillors agreed the need to clean both statue and monument but no safety issues had been identified which made the repair urgent.

The quote for specialist cleaning and repair of £9,380 was discussed and it was agreed that it was too expensive and not available in the budget. The Operations Manager was therefore asked to look at the possibility and cost of cleaning the canopy and statue in-house.

8. To discuss the Town Council involvement in this year’s Christmas lighting and decorations.

The contract with Festive Lighting, costing £15,000pa, finishes after Christmas 2023. The Operations Manager outlined the additional work required by MTC staff to install Christmas trees and electrical works, meaning that the Christmas budget would likely be overspent.

The tree at Hopcott Corner would need solar lights as an electric connection was no longer available and it was agreed to purchase some to see how effective they are and whether this could be an option to use solar more widely.

The Christmas light switch-on was agreed for Friday 24th November so as not to conflict with Dunster by Candlelight. However, it was agreed that this should be discussed with the Chamber of Commerce and Councillor Jewell would be approached as a contact. It was also agreed to review future Christmas arrangements in early 2024.

It was noted that the bunting needs to come down before the Christmas decorations go up.

9. To receive an update on rewilding areas and the timetable for of end of season cuts.

The Operations Manager said that this year’s rewilded areas had attracted both positive and negative comments in equal measure. Discussion was had about what to do next year and it was agreed to continue with the new approach and perhaps look at seeding some areas with wildflowers to make them more attractive.

10. To note the update on Culvercliffe and Harbour works.

It was noted that all work had now been completed and that £1,638.90 of the grant remains. Discussion will be had at the next meeting about how to allocate this.

11. To note that Somerset Councillors Chilcott and Hadley are in the process of setting up a meeting about street weeds and Blenheim Gardens in September and more details will follow.

The meeting date of 14th September 2023 was noted and Councillors M Palmer and Lawton will attend with the Operations Manager.

12. To set a date for an extraordinary meeting of the Working Group to discuss the 2024/25 budget requirements.

The date of the next meeting will be 10th October at 10.30am in the Office and the Budget will form the first part of the agenda.

Councillor Hodson

Chair