



**Tiverton Town Council**

Town Hall, St Andrew Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PG

Town Clerk: J.F. Vanderwolfe Chartered MCIPD

Email:townclerk@tivertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01884 253404 Fax: 01884 258550

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs W Burke, S Griggs, C Harrower, D Knowles.

**In attendance:** Cllr Phil Hill, (who was nominated to substitute), Mr John Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), and Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk).

<b>103</b>	<b>Apologies: Cllr's I Hill (Unwell) S Bush (Working)</b> All resolved to accept the apologies
<b>104</b>	<b>Code Of Conduct</b> There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
<b>105</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.
<b>106</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> The Town Clerk informed the members that there was a need to look at suitable sites for the town centre seating. He suggested that a meeting should be arranged to go and view the condition of the current seating provision, to assess what was needed. The members expressed their keenness for the new seating to be constructed of recycled materials.
<b>107</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> There were no members of public in attendance.
<b>108</b>	<b>Allotment Report</b> The Chairman Cllr W Burke raised a query in relation to the new bonfire schedule, in particular to there being no bonfires permitted for the month of January,. The Town Clerk said that it had been agreed not to permit bonfires in January in the Amenities Minutes of the 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022. This had been due to complaints received from the district council's environment officer. Cllr W Burke informed the members of the recent thefts of produce experienced by allotment holders at the Tomswell allotment site. He asked whether the bottom gate could be locked. The Assistant to the Town Clerk Mrs Hubbard said that this would be difficult, as many people accessed the allotment site from this gate. The gate was also less than 3ft in height, and a determined intruder would still climb over the gate if it was locked. He also requested the return of the annual site inspection for the town councillors. Saying that it would be good for the councillors to familiarise themselves with the six sites. This was agreed.
<b>109</b>	<b>Recce of Tiverton in Bloom 2022 and plans for 2023</b> Cllr W Burke said that the weather conditions had been sometimes challenging this

	<p>year and some of the bedding plants had suffered due to the hot conditions. In particular, the flower bed on Angel Hill which had not fared well, it had the additional issue of the continual growth of Oxalis, and he thought that grassing over this bed might be the best solution going forwards. There had also been some anti-social behaviour that had impacted the flower beds in the Burma Star garden. This area would need a re-think in terms of the planting used too.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs suggested, that perhaps some bee friendly and drought tolerant perennial plants/shrubs, could be used, to help improve bio-diversity and reduce the need for watering.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke said that there were height restrictions to consider when planting on roundabouts that could limit the use of perennials/shrubs.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke expressed his disappoint in the early removal of the town’s hanging baskets, as he thought they could have remained in place for a few more weeks. He raised the matter of the sponsorship of the town’s flower beds which currently went to the district council and felt that perhaps the money raised should go to support Tiverton in Bloom.</p> <p>He expressed his gratitude for all the volunteers who had assisted him in the planting out of all the flower beds this year.</p> <p>Cllr P Hill suggested, that it might be a good idea to form a friends group. Exmouth he said, had a very successful group which were very proactive in the town.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said, that perhaps the local college and schools could get involved and help to support Tiverton in Bloom.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke said, that he hoped that a “friends of Tiverton in Bloom” group could be formed to support the event.</p> <p>The Town Clerk suggested that the town’s hanging baskets could be subcontracted out. This would mean that the contractor would manage the sales of the baskets, along with all the installation and watering costs. The watering for the hanging baskets was by far the biggest expense. This year the cost of extra watering during the hottest spells had greatly added to the costs.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke rejected this idea. He suggested that it may be more cost effective to employ a gardener who could help with the planting out, weeding and watering of all the displays. Volunteers could also support this work.</p> <p>All were in favour of looking at the options for a gardener either sub contracted or employed on a seasonal basis.</p>
<p><b>110</b></p>	<p><b>Explore the options for taking on the town’s parks, (Westexe Recreation Ground) &amp; (the People’s Park) from 2024.</b></p> <p>Cllr W Burke informed the members that he would like to take on the Westexe Recreation Ground and the People’s Park. He felt that the current management of both parks was minimal, due to the budget constraints faced by the district council and that the town council would be better placed to restore them to a higher standard.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke expressed how important the parks were for the community and sited the public paddling pool at Westexe Park which was a well-used amenity, as just one example.</p> <p>Cllr D Knowles agreed, saying that parks were beneficial for the whole community. All voted in favour of exploring the options for the parks.</p> <p>The Town Clerk would now carry out research and look at costings for all the options and would report back on this.</p>
<p><b>111</b></p>	<p><b>Update on the E.U.E. Community Centre *previously circulated.</b></p> <p>Cllr D Knowles voiced his concerns in relation to the recent developments of the postponed new road infrastructure for the E.U.E. This meant that there could be</p>

	<p>delays on the amount of housing built and this in turn would then impact upon the release of S106 funding.</p> <p>In his opinion, the figure of one million was not enough to commence the new community centre and recommended that full costings were sought first.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower agreed, saying that there was a lot of uncertainty over the whole project.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said, that in his capacity of financial officer, had to advise that there could be huge financial risks for the town council. He recommended that the council wait until more was known on the project and its costs.</p>
<b>112</b>	<p><b>Update on the CCTV Project</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the members that there would be a further meeting taking place with the district council representatives to finalise arrangements. There still remained some questions around the Multi-Storey car park camera financing, as the town council primarily wanted to take on the town centre CCTV system, but this could be negotiated. He informed the members that BT would install a link so that the town centre could be monitored by the Exeter City Hub. The cost for this link would be £8,500 and the annual rental cost would be £1,200.</p> <p>Exeter City Council would charge £25K per year for the 24/7 365 day monitoring service. This service level agreement would be for a period of two years. All related costs would be shared on a 50- 50 basis with the district council.</p> <p>Cllr Phil Hill asked if there would be any possibility of the local police contributing to these costs.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower asked if any additional cameras could be added to the new system if needed. The Town Clerk responded to say this was an idea for the future, but it was vital that a decision was reached on the current system.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman raised the question of CCTV for the parks and suggested that a mobile system might be the way forward.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower asked how the monitoring would be carried out at the hub.</p> <p>The Town Clerk recommended that the members visit the hub to see how the work was carried out.</p>
<b>113</b>	<p><b>New Hall: Review of charges *Suggested amended rates previously circulated</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk said that due to the rising costs of running the New Hall, there was a need to increase the hire charges and the rates charged for utilities usage. The charges had remained static for a number of years with no increases. The New Hall had not received any government help during the pandemic and bookings currently remained low. Therefore the hall was currently running at a loss.</p> <p>All were happy to accept the amended rates for the New Hall.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower requested a meeting with the newly appointed New Hall Manager.</p>
<b>114</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 2pm.</p>