



**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 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.**

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

**In attendance:** Mr John Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), and the site representative from Beech Road allotment site Mr J Conibear and the site representative from King Street allotment site Mr K Churchill.

Not present: Cllr S Bush.

<b>65</b>	<b>Apologies</b> There were no apologies received.
<b>66</b>	<b>Election of Vice Chair</b> Cllr C Harrower proposed Cllr S Griggs, this was seconded by Cllr I Hill. All accepted Cllr S Griggs as the Vice Chair.
<b>67</b>	<b>Code Of Conduct</b> There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
<b>68</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.
<b>69</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.
<b>70</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> There was no one wishing to speak during the democratic period.
<b>71</b>	<b>Bonfires:</b> Following correspondence from Environmental Health it is suggested that bonfires on all Allotment sites be restricted to once a year. The Town Clerk informed the members that he had received repeated calls from the Environment officer at Mid Devon District Council in relation to complaints resulting from bonfires at Pinnex allotment site. The individual who had made the complaints cited medical reasons for wanting them halted. The Town Clerk said that following a meeting with all the site representatives earlier in the year to gauge their thoughts and opinions, a proposal of one bonfire per year to be held in November was suggested. He said that all allotment holders were encouraged to compost wherever possible with all new tenants being issued with a compost booklet in their new tenancy pack. Cllr C harrower said she was not happy with one bonfire per year and expressed concerns that piles of rotting waste could attract vermin. Cllr I Hill asked how allotment holders composted, whether it was individually or whether there was one large communal composting area.

	<p>The Town Clerk said that it was up to each individual to compost their own waste on their plots. Mr Conibear said that the Tiverton Allotment Association had looked into the possibility of a communal compost site for Beech Road but it would be too cost prohibitive. He said that at times there was a need for a bonfire to dispose of hedge trimmings and branches of fruit trees as there was no electricity on the site to utilise a chipping machine.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke said that the current arrangement of designating the first weekend in every month was still fit for purpose. He did not feel that there was any need to change this.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that with climate change issues it would be good to lessen bonfires but felt that once a year would not be enough. She suggested permitting bonfires for the first weekend of May, July, September and November could suit. This would mean effectively less than half the amount of bonfires but would still allow allotment holders to dispose of waste that they could not compost. This Cllr Hill said could be run as a trial for a 12 month period and then reviewed.</p> <p>It was agreed to accept Cllr Hill's suggestion.</p> <p>Notification would now be sent out to all allotment holders to inform them of the new schedule commencing in May 2022.</p>
72	<p><b>Pinnex Path:</b> to receive a report on the feasibility of providing concrete path at this site.</p> <p>The Assistant to the Town Clerk Mrs Hubbard read out the report to the members. This explained that it would not be cost effective or environmentally friendly to install a new concrete access path to replace the current hard core one. It could also cause more issues with potential rain runoff and create trip hazards as there would be higher and lower areas created due to the sloping nature of the site.</p> <p>The members agreed that installing a concrete path would not be beneficial to the site. Cllr Burke said that some of the allotment holders had inadvertently caused more issues with the current path by digging away from the edging boards thereby undermining the foundations.</p> <p>Cllr Hill said that other materials could be sought for the path and suggested recycled plastic.</p> <p>The office would look into seeking quotations.</p> <p>Cllr's W Burke and I Hill agreed to visit the site to view the issues with the path.</p>
73	<p><b>Accessible allotment plots:</b> to discuss the possibility of allocating a plot for wheel chair/mobility scooter access.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that it would be a good idea to have a plot that could be utilised for an allotment holder who had mobility issues. This would be in the form of a plot with raised beds and would need to be close to a main access path and on level ground. The site would need to have onsite parking.</p> <p>The council have 6 allotment sites but only two of them have onsite parking facilities, these being Tomswell and Beech Road. Both could have a designated accessible plot. It was agreed after some discussion to trial a plot at Beech Road as this had a concrete main access path, whereas Tomswell had a grass path.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke said he would be happy to erect some raised beds when a suitable plot became available.</p>
74	<p><b>Review of the current tenancy agreement:</b> with a view to the addition of behaviour on allotments clause.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the members that the office had received an informal complaint from an allotment holder regarding another allotment holder's behaviour. This had caused the allotment holder feel uncomfortable but they were not willing to</p>

	<p>make a formal complaint.</p> <p>The members agreed that all allotment holders had a responsibility for their behaviour to others whilst on the sites and it would be a good idea to include a clause in the tenancy agreement to this effect.</p>
<b>75</b>	<p><b>South West in Bloom 2022 Spring Seminar:</b> attendees. Cllr's W Burke, Claudette Harrower, I Hill said they would like to attend the Seminar.</p>
<b>76</b>	<p><b>To approve the Tiverton in Bloom 2022 garden competition entry form.</b> The members reviewed the current garden competition entry form and suggested that Gardens with a theme be included and that the form should be amended to state one entry per person.</p>
<b>77</b>	<p><b>EUE Community Centre: action plan for way forward.</b> The Town Clerk said he was eager to kick-start the plans for the proposed community centre and asked the members for their views. *note that due to the timescale some members had to leave the meeting early. Cllr I Hill said she wanted all to have a chance to be involved with this. It was suggested that the working party for the EUE community centre be reformed. All agreed to accept this.</p>
<b>78</b>	<p><b>Public seating:</b> provision and responsibility/maintenance. The Town Clerk informed the members that Mid Devon District Council were willing to put in some new seating for the town but would like the town council to take ownership of them. This would mean the town council would be responsible for maintaining the seats. Currently some of the town centre seating was in a poor state of repair and in need of replacing. The Town Clerk said there may be possible section 106 funding that could help with this project. All agreed in principle to look at this, but would be keen to use recycled plastic seating for the replacements.</p>
<b>79</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> 4th April 2022 at 2pm.</p>