



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 23rd May 2022 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), and Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk).

91	Apologies: Cllr S Bush (work) All resolved to accept the apology.
92	Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman Cllr D Knowles proposed Cllr W Burke for Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr I Hill. All agreed to accept. Cllr W Burke proposed Cllr D Knowles as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr I Hill. All agreed to accept.
93	Code Of Conduct There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
94	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 th April 2022, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.
95	Matters Arising Cllr I Hill said that she was disappointed that no costings had been sought yet for the works to put in a hand rail and shutter boards next to the main path at Pinnex allotment site. She understood that the works were to have been carried out after being approved on the Minutes of the 4 th April 2022. The Town Clerk said this would now be looked at and a contractor would be sought to carry out the works.
96	Democratic Period There were no members of public in attendance.
97	Abandonment of plots issue/cost of clearance The Town Clerk informed the members that there had been some plots surrendered or abandoned that had been left in a very untidy condition, with many having a large amount of gardening paraphernalia remaining on them. This in turn had meant the need to employ the services of a garden contractor to carry out the clearance of the plots and remove the gardening debris at some considerable cost to the council. The Town Clerk said that the costs incurred far exceeded the security deposit of £50.00 paid by each new probationary tenant. He asked the members on their thoughts on whether the security deposit put in place to deter abandonment of plots was enough?

	<p>The Assistant to the Town Clerk Mrs J Hubbard showed the members a recent photograph of an abandoned plot at Pinnex allotment site and the quotation from the garden contractor to clear this.</p> <p>The members expressed concern over this issue but did not want to increase the security deposit as they felt this could exclude members of the community from being able to rent an allotment plot from the council, if it was not affordable to them.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that the administration team were now making regular checks on all six sites to try to prevent abandonment and very untidy plots from occurring. It was agreed to keep the security deposit at £50.00.</p> <p>The works for the abandoned plot at Pinnex allotment site were approved.</p>
98	<p>Bee Hives</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that the office had received a request from an allotment holder to site a bee hive on their plot at Beech Road allotment site. He informed the members that this site already had a bee hive on a plot close by.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke advised against this being permitted as the plot itself was not deemed to be in a suitable position owing the bees flightpaths and could be a health & safety issue. Furthermore, Cllr W Burke said that as there was already an established bee colony on this site it could potentially cause issues by introducing another bee colony. The current bee hive was sited in a corner position at the back of the site away from the main plots and other allotment users.</p> <p>All agreed not to permit this.</p>
99	<p>E.U.E Update</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that there had been a recent meeting of which Cllrs' W Burke, P Hill, P Elstone, J Rendle had attended to reform the E.U.E. working party group. The aim was to consider the scope and what the town council's role would be in the proposed Community Centre. It was decided in order to move forward with this project there would be a need to fully understand the funding process. Therefore it was agreed that a further meeting should be set up and to invite the Director of Place at MDDC, the Head of Planning for MDDC, and Christie McCombe of MDDC to attend to fully advise on funding.</p> <p>Cllr's P Hill and P Elstone agreed to compile a list of questions that could be sent to the above in advance of the meeting in order for them to properly prepare.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill asked how the process would work.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed her that the working party would collate all the information and would then present progress reports to the Amenities Committee before taking any recommendations to the Full Council.</p>
100	<p>Update on the provision of seating for the town centre</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded the members that it had been agreed to take over the seating for the town centre. He had then enquired about s106 funding with the aim of securing some money for the replacement and/or repair of the existing seating.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said he had met with Zoe Lentell of MDDC to receive an update on the proposed new signage for the town centre. She had informed him that the project had gone out to tender and were now awaiting quotations. Zoe had said that MDDC would like to be informed of where the town council would like to put new seating.</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked the members if they would like to take a walk around the town to access the current seating and to make a note of any additional new seating options. There were many options for the new seating but it would be a good idea to consider seating constructed from recycled materials and for them to come with fixings to</p>

	securely anchor them into position. This would help prevent them from being removed and vandalised.
101	<p>New Hall Bar</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the members that following a discussion with the recently employed New Hall Manager and himself, one of the ideas to assist in the running costs of the New Hall that arose, was to take over the New Hall bar.</p> <p>Currently the bar could be hired out to users for the price of £22.00 as long as they held the necessary licence.</p> <p>If the town council could do this, any profits made could be re-invested into the New Hall. The Town Clerk said that currently the New Hall was making a loss, with the pandemic greatly adding to this with loss of bookings.</p> <p>Another idea was to host themed evenings at the New Hall. Again having a bar could be very a very lucrative asset for this sort of event. Outside bar staff could be hired to staff the bar as and when needed.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that she would like to see a business plan for the proposal.</p> <p>The Town Clerk agreed to arrange a business plan for the New Hall bar.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke informed the members of the judging date for Tiverton in Bloom 2022, this would take place on Tuesday 12th July from 10.30am onwards. He said that the local town garden completion judging date would be Thursday 14th July 2022. He asked Cllr D Knowles to arrange the judges for this. Cllr D Knowles agreed to do so.</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked the members if they would like him to provide the catering as he had done the previous year.</p> <p>All agreed to this.</p> <p>The meeting concluded.</p>
102	Next Meeting: Monday 25 th July 2022 at 2pm.