



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 2pm in the Mayoralty Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs W Burke, S Griggs, D Knowles, S Knight, I Hill and S Bush

In attendance: Mr John Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Miss L Hubbard (Clerical Assistant) and Cllr P Hill.

41	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr A Perris, Cllr C Harrower and Cllr D Sutton
42	Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman Cllr W Burke was elected as Chairman and Cllr S Knight as Vice Chairman
43	Code Of Conduct There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
44	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 th April 2021, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.
45	Matters Arising The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the definitive map review had been put on hold until after lockdown restrictions are eased and that the highway officer had stated that, it was not of benefit looking at highway issues until the major resurfacing works within the town had been completed. Any urgent defects should be reported via the DCC portal.
46	Democratic Period No members of the public were present.
47	Tiverton in Bloom/Southwest Competition It was noted that there would be one judge attending this year due to Covid-19 with the judging being on 15 th July. The Portfolio had been prepared by J Hubbard & L Hubbard and forwarded to the judge. Due to Covid-19 restrictions it had been agreed that most of tour would be on foot with a short car drive to Blundell's. The timetable had been agreed and a lunch would be provided. Sadly, there had only been 12 entries received for this year's garden competition, compared to around 70 entries for the Facebook competition last year. The judging of this competition would take place on Thursday 8 th July. The Chairman expressed

	<p>his disappointment, but it was noted that people prefer the online style photo competition, which had a prize rather than a cup incentive. The committee will review the competition for 2022.</p>
<p>48</p>	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Allotment report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and the Town clerk went through the main points on the report.</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with a company to look at the asbestos problem at Beech Road on Thursday 8th July.</p> <p>L Hubbard explained that she had spent a great deal of time trying to resolve the issue of the missing fencing at Harrowby, it was agreed that MDDC as landlord of the properties backing onto the allotment in which the fence was missing were responsible. However, they had refused to deal with the issue and stated that the tenant had insufficient to replace the fence. It was reluctantly agreed that some form of fencing would be provided by the council on a one-off basis.</p> <p>The Town Clerk read out the report on the resident's wall backing onto Tomswell allotments prepared by Exact Structures (surveyor), in which they stated 'that the ivy had grown into some of the cracks and over the years caused the cracks to enlarge and in a few points along the wall grow completely through the width of the wall.' It went on to say 'the cracks are unlikely to have been caused by the ivy but rather due to the shrinkage of the masonry blocks'. In summary, the report stated 'the masonry wall looks to be in a reasonable structural condition, but the removal of the ivy has revealed aesthetic issues'. The Town Clerk felt that the report highlighted that the wall's deterioration had not been principally caused by the ivy, but possibly by the age of the wall itself. Therefore, he felt that there was little liability on the part of the town council. However, he suggested that if the owners of 1 Higher Loughborough wished, estimates could be obtained for the remedial action highlighted in the report and that possibly the town council could make a contribution towards that cost as a gesture of goodwill, outside of accepting liability. Members supported the Town Clerk's recommendation. It was agreed that the quotation for the poisoning of the root systems of the ivy, be accepted.</p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to email complaints received from Cllr E Slade from a resident of a property adjacent to Pinnex allotment site, concerning the lighting of bonfires on the site. The TC reminded members that the present arrangements were that bonfires were permitted on allotment sites on the 1st full weekend of each month. However, all plot holders had been notified in the past that where possible, they should compost garden waste in line with the councils Green Policy. The resident who had complained had made similar complaints over several years and had been told that there was no bylaw within the town to prevent the lighting of bonfires and that it was generally felt by the council that the current arrangements, introduced some years ago, were reasonable to both allotment tenants and neighbours. The committee agreed that the present arrangements were adequate and that no changes should be made.</p> <p>It was agreed that the notice period for anyone during the probation period of tenancy would be reduced from 28 days to 14 days. However, for the point of clarity</p>

	the termination period for full tenancy will remain at 28 days as per allotment legislation.
49	<p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>The Town clerk had circulated a draft emergency plan to members prior to the meeting which was generally accepted. He explained that Emergency planning could cover many aspects, however DCC were always the prime lead on such events, therefore, he felt that the items covered were adequate. Cllr I Hill, stated that she liked the content but felt that it needed details of contact names and numbers in case of such an emergency. The Town Clerk felt that this was a very good idea and this information would be collated and added to the document.</p>
50	<p>Cotteyland Telephone Box</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that several organisations had shown an interest in the adoption of this redundant telephone box. He felt that it would be easier for such organisations to apply for the adoption themselves. Oakford Parish council were willing to adopt and pay all costs for the removal of this box. The manager of the Pannier Market had expressed an interest but had no budget for this. The Tiverton Adventure Playground were also interested but lacked funds to resource it. Town Centre Partnership had investigated the possibility of having the phone box but had decided against it. The committee resolved to adopt the box and to investigate its future use or positioning at a forthcoming meeting.</p>
51	<p>Market Toilet</p> <p>The Town Clerk requested that an additional item be dealt with as a matter of urgency at this meeting, this was agreed. He stated that MDDC were providing Tiverton Town Council with £24, 336.37 as part of the Governments' Welcome Back Fund. Now that the Public Toilets at the Market were once again full open, he felt that there was a need to decorate the exterior of this building. Whilst, under normal circumstances this would be the responsibility of MDDC, it had been agreed that the Welcome Back Fund could be used for this purpose. Together, with some funds from the Covid-19 town reopening fund that the council had received earlier in the pandemic. The cost of the refurbishment as quoted by Spectrum Maintenance was £3,240 & VAT. Which would be divided between the two funds. Members felt this was a particularly good idea and asked that it be carried out as soon as possible.</p>
52	<p>Tiverton Bus Station</p> <p>Town Clerk informed the meeting that a recent tour of the bus station has revealed that it was in a sad state and desperately needed some attention. He had contacted MDDC and spoken to Keith Ashton and it had been agreed that some heavy cleaning and remedial work would take place, again using the Welcome Back Fund. Tiverton town council would provide some floral display at the bus station with the aim of brightening this location up. Members felt that this was a super idea and thanked the town clerk.</p>
53	The next meeting of the Amenities Committee is scheduled for Monday 6 th September at 2pm

