



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Events & Amenities Committee held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 6.15pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs W Burke, C Berry, D Broom, R Clarke, A Cuddy, S Griggs, P Hill, B Holdman, K Lejeune, T Wheeler.

In attendance: Mr John Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), and Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk).

Not present: S Bush.

152	<p>Apologies for Absence: Cllr’s V Bagatelas (family), S Beard (sick), N Davey (working), M Farrell (sick), D Garcia-Parejo (away). Resolved to accept these apologies.</p>
153	<p>Declarations of Interest Cllr B Holdman declared a personal interest for item 6a, as a member of the People’s Park Trust.</p>
154	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th September 2023, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.</p>
155	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes that are not an agenda item The Town Clerk read out a report on the outcome of the recent Guns 2 Roses event held at the New Hall on September 2023. After factoring in all the costs, the event made a slight loss of £684.00, however there were some remaining drinks stock which it was hoped could be sold on.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that this had been an experimental function and the first in which the town council ran the bar, although the bar takings had been good, ticket numbers had been low. Promotion of events therefore, was key, and for future events, more promotion on social media platforms etc., was required.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs asked if there had been any update on the CCTV SLA Agreement from the district council and if there had been any reports to date submitted to the town council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk responded to say that he was still waiting on receipt of the SLA document. The office had chased this numerous times but had been told of delays to the processing of this document due to staff shortages. He confirmed that no reports from the monitoring hub had been received to date. The Town Clerk informed the members that the once the 2 year CCTV contract currently in place between the district council and Exeter City Council had expired, the indications were that the town council would be expected to take this on in its entirety.</p>
156	<p>Democratic Period No members of public present.</p>

157

Tiverton in Bloom:

a) People's Park Flower Beds: Cllr Burke to report

Cllr W Burke informed the members of his plan for the provision of 3 flower beds for People's Park. There would be a semi-circular bed close to the main entrance gate measuring 12ft x 8ft, this would incorporate the current flower bed which had been previously been seeded with wildflowers. The proposed bed would be planted out with 162 dwarf dahlia plants.

There would be a new bed dug out close to the bowling club ground measuring 6ft x 8ft and would be planted with 108 Antigua marigold plants.

Finally a third bed would be dug out near to the bottom entrance gate measuring 4ft x 6ft, this would be planted with 360 dwarf dahlia plants.

Both dahlias and marigolds provided benefits for bees and other insects.

The estimated cost for the purchase of the plants would be £200. The district council park and open spaces employees would dig out and prepare the flower beds and Cllr Burke would then plant out the beds himself and then maintain them. The plants were minimal in terms of maintenance and watering needs.

Cllr S Griggs had some concerns that this task was a lot for one councillor to manage. She also asked if this would be an ongoing project.

Cllr W Burke assured her that he was happy to take on this project and fully understood the work involved, he confirmed that this would be an on-going project. Cllr T Wheeler offered assistance in planting out the beds.

Cllr W Burke then informed the members of his plans for the town centre flower beds for Tiverton in Bloom 2024. Explaining that this year would see the use of more bee friendly planting to encourage wildlife, with the use of salvias, dahlias and marigolds, alongside of the more traditional busy lizzies, begonias and petunias. Cllr B Holdman proposed to accept Cllr W Burke's proposal, this was seconded by Cllr T Wheeler.

All were in favour and resolved to accept.

b) Contractors for 2024

The Assistant to the Town Clerk Mrs J Hubbard informed the members that 3 quotations had been sought for the provision of plants for Tiverton in Bloom 2024. The office had received 2 quotations back, the current supplier West Somerset & Taunton Council offered best value. Coming in at 50% less.

The Town Clerk informed the members that Mr J Hewitt who currently carried out the installation of the town's floral displays for Tiverton in Bloom and provided a watering and maintenance service was unique in what he offered. Attempts by the office had been made to seek other quotations but it had proved a difficult task to seek contractors willing to offer this type of service.

Cllr A Cuddy proposed to accept the West Somerset & Taunton Nurseries quotation for the supply of plants and Mr J Hewitt's quotation for the maintenance and watering of the town floral displays. This was seconded by Cllr C Berry.

<p>158</p>	<p>Perambulation of the Leat: Cllr P Hill and Town Clerk to report</p> <p>Cllr P Hill began by informing the members of the current issues relating to the town leat, the costs for resolving these were estimated to be in the region of £100,000 plus. The leat was not currently functioning due to these issues.</p> <p>Cllr Hill referred to the various land owner permissions that would need to be sought, the temporary structures needed to gain access to parts of the trail, and difficulties with the management of potentially over 400 walkers, in terms of ensuring their health and safety over rough terrain.</p> <p>With all this in mind, Cllr Hill suggested hosting a restricted event for 2024, which could incorporate elements of the leat. A series of walks could be held, involving a circular route, led from the town centre and returning to the town centre.</p> <p>This could be linked with the district council's walking festival being held in September 2024. Chettiscombe could play a focal point of these walks, with Knightshayes Court land being incorporated. Cllr P Hill said he had been trying to contact Knightshayes Estate Manager Mr T Hunter to consult with him on these plans. Cllr P Hill would report back to members once he had met with Mr Hunter.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the members that the district council confirmed that it could no longer assist with the management of the temporary structures and land clearance as they had previously done so. Mainly due to the loss of staff able to carry out such works.</p> <p>The Town Clerk suggested that the proposed restricted event could be used to promote and highlight the leat. Sponsorship could be used for funding towards repairs. He recommended that the guided walks be operated on a pre-booked basis in order to control the number of participants. Walks could be offered to accommodate all, with options ranging from a 4.5 mile and a 7.2 mile route.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that the town council's New Hall could be utilised to host a fund raising concert in aid of the town leat. Tiverton Museum could put on an exhibition on the Perambulation of the Leat.</p> <p>These were all ways of highlighting the leat and its plight.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman said that he fully understood the need for stringent health and safety. He liked the idea of highlighted sections of the leat being utilised for guided walks.</p> <p>Cllr C Berry said that it would be a good idea to retain some of the other associated heritage with this event such as the Wither Boys/girls and the reading of the proclamation along various points.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke suggested that the People's Park could be used as a finish point for the walks.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Town Clerk and Cllr P Hill would report back on ideas for the event working on the suggestions.</p>
<p>159</p>	<p>Heritage Events Diary</p> <p>The Town Clerk read out a report prepared by the Town Centre Coordinator Ms S Gray.</p> <p>Events planned for 2024 included Riverside market events for April and June, and Phoenix Lane markets for July and August.</p> <p>September would see a potential event for the Perambulation of the Leat, to coincide with the district council's first Walking Festival.</p> <p>Concluding with the town's Christmas Light Switch-on for the 30th November and late night shopping events for the 11th and 18th December.</p> <p>There were other ideas being considered including a large fund raising event in aid of the town leat and other community events to be hosted in the town's parks.</p>

160	Christmas Lights Switch On Update The Town Clerk informed the members of the arrangements for the Christmas Switch-on event to be held on the 25 th November 2023. The event would be focused at Phoenix Lane. It would commence at 1pm and would incorporate a range of food and drink stalls, a stage with performances from local bands/acts and local community organisations, face painting and crafts, culminating in a ceremonial switching on of the Christmas lights at 6pm. Phoenix Lane would be the only road closure point and this would be from 12 noon until 8pm on that day. All were happy with the arrangements for the event.
161	Date of Next Meeting: TBC