

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 05 JANUARY 2021 AT 6.00PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK (Occasional Interruptions may have occurred during this meeting)

PRESENT Councillor B Turner (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs G Johnson (Chairman)
Councillor D Dorson (Vice Chair)
Councillor M Exton
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor B Griffin
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor Mrs E Hooper

ALSO PRESENT Deputy Town Clerk
1 member of Public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

362. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Point 1)

None

363. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 2)

Councillor D Dorson declared a Personal Interest in respect of Item 5 c I proposal 6 as the company awarded permission is a friend.

364. MINUTES (Agenda Point 3)

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 01 December 2020, were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

365. ALLOTMENTS (Agenda Point 4)

a. Update on action points relating to the Allotments

- i. **Update regarding the clearance of allotments** - It was confirmed that the clearance of the rubbish on Uffington Road allotments is now complete, once the weather is suitable, the ploughing will commence.
- ii. **Update regarding the asbestos removal** - It was confirmed that 13 plots have asbestos and contact is being made with companies to clear.

b. Any correspondence received

- i. **Committee to receive and consider request for return of deposit** - It was reported that termination requests had been received for plot US06. It was recommended that the deposit is returned as the plot was taken on in bad condition and has not degraded further.

Proposal 1- On the proposal of Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by the Councillor D Dorson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the to return the deposit to the tenant of US06

c. Any other Allotment business items for consideration

- i. **Removal of Purchase Order for skip** - It was reported that the purchase order for the skip to clear Uffington road allotments, passed by committee on 4th

February 2020 proposal 4 is still open. It was recommended that this item is now removed as the clearance work has been completed by a contractor.

Proposal 2- On the proposal of Councillor D Dorson, seconded by the Councillor Mrs S Sismore, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves to remove the previously agreed purchase order for the skip to clear allotments passed by the committee on 4th February 2020 proposal 4.

- i. **Request to supply wood chip to Uffington Road Allotments-** It was reported that correspondents had been received regarding the the delivery of wood chip to Uffington Road New allotment site. The company already supply several tenants on the site with wood chip and would like permission to leave the woodchip in the carpark of Uffington Road New site for all tenants to use. The company would liaise with the council on dates of drop offs to ensure that the site isn't overloaded. Following discussions, it was agreed that the woodchip could be delivered under the management of the Deputy Town Clerk on the schedule of drop offs.

Proposal 3- On the proposal of Councillor J Dawson, seconded by the Councillor B Griffin, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the delivery of wood chip to Uffington Road New allotment site under management schedule of Deputy Town Clerk with the company Woodcraft Tree Services Ltd.

366. CEMETERY (Agenda Point 5)

a. *Update on action points relating to the Cemetery*

- ii. **Update regarding the Cemetery Office and Cemetery Toilet Repairs -** It was confirmed that the hatch has been installed and the toilet handle repaired, the lock is still to be completed.
- iii. **Update regarding the Cemetery Chapel heaters and electrical wiring installation -** It was confirmed that the heaters and wiring has now been installed.
- iv. **Update regarding the Cemetery trees on boundary – Report 1 -** A report was circulated stating the quotes for removing all the trees on the boundary of the Cemetery and Essex Road and also for crown raising and reduction of the hedge in the same area as requested by the committee. Also included was the quotes for the removal of 3 trees, 1 which has toppled over in the high winds in the extension area, 2 multi stem tree which has co-dominant failure and stem decay. It was recommended that the committee crown raise the trees and reduce the height of the hedge to retain the privacy of the residents and the habitats for the wildlife in that area. Following discussions, it was agreed that quote A for the crown raising and reduction of the height of the hawthorn hedge and removal of 3 fallen and diseased trees at Stamford Cemetery at a cost of £1950 plus VAT was accepted.

Proposal 4- On the proposal of Councillor J Dawson, seconded by the Councillor Mrs S Sismore, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the Quote A for the crown raising and reduction of height of the hawthorn hedge and the removal of 3 fallen and diseased trees at Stamford Cemetery at a cost of £1950 plus Vat.

It was confirmed after the proposal was approved, that the contractor selected was Woodcraft Tree Services Ltd.

- v. **Tree Survey for all Amenity area -** It was reported that the tree survey is due in February. Quotes had been received for the works. It was recommended that the trees are inspected on an 18-month inspection period to ensure both Vascular and Structural inspections can be carried out. Following discussions, it

was agreed that Quote B for the tree survey to be undertake at a cost of £1870 plus Vat. On an 18-month inspection period to ensure both Vascular and Structural inspections can be carried out.

Proposal 5 - On the proposal of Councillor D Dorson, seconded by the Councillor Mrs S Sismore, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the quote B for the tree survey to be undertake at a cost of £1870 plus Vat. On an 18-month inspection period to ensure both Vascular and Structural inspections can be carried out.

It was confirmed after the proposal was approved, that the contractor selected was Woodcraft Tree Services Ltd.

b. Any correspondence received

- ii. **Committee to receive and consider any correspondence received** - It was reported that correspondents had been received regarding the cemetery condition from a resident. The correspondent has been replied to by the Town Clerk and the question and replies were reported to the committee.

c. Any other Cemetery business items for consideration

- i. **Committee to receive and consider** - It was reported that a request had been received to collect spent flowers from the green waste bins and bay at the Cemetery to be recycled into confetti. Following discussions, it was agreed that the company Dreaming of Confetti can collect the green waste from the Cemetery.

Proposal 6- On the proposal of Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by the Councillor Mrs S Sismore, it was agreed with one abstention **RESOLVED** the Council approves the request to collect spent flowers in the green waste bins and bay can be collected and recycled by Dreaming of Confetti.

- ii. **Sausages found at Cemetery**- It was reported that cut up sausages had been found at the Cemetery in a plastic bag with a hole in. These were removed by the operative. Cllr D Dorson reported to comments have been made on social media about the sausages, that they are known to be laced with rat poison. It was confirmed that the sausages haven't been tested so there is no evidence to confirm this, as they were disposed of. The operatives have been informed if any more appear they are to keep them for testing.
- iii. **Report on Cemetery Extension to be presented to the Climate Action Working Group**- Cllr D Dorson reported that a presentation is to be made to the CAWG regarding the development of the extension of the Cemetery as they wish to place wildflowers in the area. Following discussions, it was agreed that the presentation will be circulated to the committee. Furthermore, the committee agreed that this area could not be used for wildflower planting as it is a burial ground and will be used for future interments and had previously discussed this matter.

367. RECREATION GROUND & MEADOWS (Agenda Point 6)

a. Update on action points relating to the Recreation Ground & Meadows

- i. Update on Recreation Ground play equipment repairs - It was reported that the health and safety repairs have been authorised under the Town Clerks delegated powers. The repair works include repair to the loose steps in the Skatepark as identified in the ROSPA report at a cost of £175 plus VAT, the security cage for the electric box at a cost of £375 plus VAT, replacement cover for the ground electrics manhole at a cost of £150 plus VAT and the drainage holes to

the MUGA unit to stop the pooling of water at a cost of £275 plus VAT by MW Edwards Groundworks and Building Services.

Proposal 7- On the proposal of Councillor J Dawson, seconded by the Councillor B Turner, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the items carried out under the Town Clerks Delegated Powers. The repair works include repair to the loose steps in the Skatepark as identified in the ROSPA report at a cost of £175 plus VAT, the security cage for the electric box at a cost of £375 plus VAT, replacement cover for the ground electrics manhole at a cost of £150 plus VAT and the drainage holes to the MUGA unit to stop the pooling of water at a cost of £275 plus VAT by MW Edwards Groundworks and Building Services.

It was reported that the quote for the repair works to the skatepark fence damage by from impact rather than vandalism has been received at a cost of £475 plus VAT from MW Edwards Groundworks and Building Services, using stronger bottom kick boards. Following discussions, it was agreed that the quote be accepted.

Proposal 8- On the proposal of Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by the Councillor Mrs E Hooper it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the repairs to the Skatepark fence at a cost of £475 plus Vat by MW Edwards Groundworks and Building Services

b. Any correspondence received

- ii. **Committee to receive and consider request to plant 2 Grey Poplars on the Meadows** - It was reported that correspondents had been received regarding the installation of 2 grey poplars on the meadows, in memory of the persons mother, who was a resident of Stamford. The trees would be located on the bottom half of the Meadows on the Welland side and will be placed in from the bank, to ensure the bank isn't compromised. Following discussions, it was agreed that the trees can be planted at no cost to the council, with the exact location on the riverbank being managed by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Proposal 9 - On the proposal of Councillor B Turner, seconded by the Councillor D Dorson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves the request for 2 grey poplars to be planted on the Meadows with the agreed location of the bottom half of the Meadows on the Welland side at no cost to the council, with the exact location on the riverbank being managed by the Deputy Town Clerk.

- i. **Committee to receive and consider any correspondence received** - It was reported that correspondents have been received thanking the committee for turning back on the lights at the skatepark, also that everyone is enjoying the use of the area. The young resident also noted they are working with the operatives to maintain and tidy the area. Following discussion, it was agreed the chairman will send a letter of thanks to the young resident.

c. Any other Recreation Ground & Meadows business items for consideration

- ii. **Storage area for rubbish at the Recreation Ground** – Cllr G Johnson reported that a resident had contacted regarding the Shack area where the bins are kept at the Recreation Ground. It was noted that the area is on occasion filled with rubbish and looks a mess. It was explained that this is the area the rubbish is stored and when fly tipping occurs it is stored before collection. It was agreed that this would be looked at on Monday by the Chair and Deputy Town Clerk.

368. PROGRAMMED EVENTS (Agenda Point 7)

- a. ***Committee to consider any request for Programmed Events to be held on the Recreation Ground or Meadows.***

- i. **Request for use of Meadows for a Circus** - It was reported that a request for holding a further circus on the Meadows. Following discussions, it was agreed that no decisions on any programmed events will be made until the Covid 19 pandemic is over, this includes earmarking dates and approving dates. It was further agreed that all request will be responded to with this information.

Proposal 10 - On the proposal of Councillor Mrs S Sismore, seconded by the Councillor Mrs G Johnson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council approves that no decisions on any programmed events will be made until the Covid 19 pandemic is over, this includes earmarking dates and approving dates. It was further agreed that all request will be responded to with this information.

- ii. **Request for use of Bandstand for Theatre Show** - Following the previous item this it was agreed that the item would be responded to as per proposal 10.

369. CLOSED SESSION (Agenda Point 8)

The Chairman Councillor Mrs G Johnson asked the Committee whether they wished to go into Closed Session to discuss the Amenities Operatives.

Proposal 11 - On the proposal of Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by the Councillor B Turner, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Council that in pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Amenities Operatives are discussed in Closed Session due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed related to personnel.

The public left the meeting.

The meeting proceeded into Closed Session at 7.20pm

The meeting proceeded into Open Session at 7.31pm

During discussions in Closed Session, it was confirmed the processes that will be followed to manage the operatives.

370. QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Agenda Point 9)

None

371. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: (Agenda Point 10) – Tuesday, 02 February 2021 at 6pm

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 7.32pm.)