



Blyth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 6 February 2018

Present: Councillors J R Potts (Chair), R Parker, Vice-Chair, A Cartie, K Nisbet, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor

Also Present:

Councillor O Potts

J Hughes Town Clerk
D Clough General Services Officer
S Mitcheson General Services Assistant
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

Members of the Public - 1

The Chair welcomed Steve Mitcheson who has been appointed as a General Services Assistant for BTC and will be working closely with the General Services Officer

No	
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor D Carr
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS None.
3	MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017 Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.

3.1	MATTERS ARISING
3.1	<p>The Chair asked the Committee to consider a request from the last partnership meeting to purchase two smaller mowers at a cost of £3,000 each out of the £50,000 set aside for partnership issues. These would be used to cut the more difficult areas, such as around trees.</p> <p>Committee agreed to the request.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Minute No - Bus Timetables</u></p> <p>A discussion took place at the partnership meeting as to whether the partnership team could absorb this piece of work. Mr Reith advised the board that he would be reluctant to do so as he had experience of this previously and it created problems. Information has been received that Arriva pay NCC to update the timetables on bus stops and if BTC refuse to take over the work, they would continue to do it. Mr Wealleans agreed with the partnership board that he will carry out further investigation and feedback.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Minute No 8 – War Memorials</u></p> <p>The Chair asked the Town Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Major Fairbairn for the donation of £4,500 towards replacing the soldier at Cowpen.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Minute No 9 – Enforcement Officer</u></p> <p>Committee noted the updated information recently circulated by the Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>The GSO has had a further discussion with the Enforcement Officer around the issue of dogs in the MUGA as there are new laws which state dogs must be kept on a lead in public places. The EO is going to look at this matter and will feedback to the GSO.</p>
4	MARKET REVITALISATION <p>The Town Clerk stated that BTC have decided to support the revitalisation for a further 12 months. Meetings of the group will continue to take place in the Council Chamber at 2.00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.</p>

	<p>The Town Clerk has asked Mr Brown to provide the Council with some detail around his plans for the next year and how he is going to use the sum allocated. This will be brought to the next meeting of the group. It was noted that the Market Manager is employed by NCC.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the traders and what members feel are the issues. It was generally agreed that the market would be better placed in a smaller area and also that there should perhaps be some control on the allocated space per stall and these points will be feedback to the next market revitalisation meeting.</p>
5	<p>GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT</p> <p>The GSO asked Committee consider and agree the recommendations in his report. Discussions took place and the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase of 6 x 240 litre bins.• Replace and reduce the number of bins along the Quayside with 5 x 180 litre bins from current stock.• Purchase a deployable camera to monitor bus shelter no 26 near to Bolam Avenue adjacent to Sure Start.• GSO to prepare a maintenance programme of bus shelters which require repairs/repainting using the blue BTC colour and bring it back to ES Committee. The GSO has had confirmation that the mesh panels can be painted before fitting – the recently damaged bus shelter near the library will now be repaired using mesh for the lower panels.• Although some concern was expressed that the seats identified for the riverside may be vandalised it was agreed to go install them. <p><u>Play Areas</u></p> <p>The GSO said that although the quarterly inspections have not been carried out, the weekly ones have.</p> <p><u>Laverock</u></p> <p>A contractor has been appointed to carry out the work to improve the drainage by putting a drain to the front and back of the play area, with three herringbones which will take the water into the gulley.</p>

Cowpen Wooden Trail

As no residents attended the consultation Councillor Nisbet asked the GSO to attend a residents meeting week commencing 12 February to share the plans with them. He is hoping to have a start date for the work in the coming week. The GSO said that he is actively seeking further funding and the Chair explained that S106 money does not automatically come to the Council – a bid has to be made. The Town Clerk is seeking further clarification about how this will work when funding changes to CIL.

Tree Sculpture

Pictures were displayed showing the progress of the sculpture which will be sealed with a resin when it is finished. Consideration will be given to a second sculpture in due course.

Speed Awareness Sensors

The GSO asked the Committee to consider his proposal for speed awareness sensors on Plessey Road and gave details on the various options together with costings. The Committee had an in depth discussion and agreed that it is an excellent initiative and decided to proceed with the purchase of a sensor with a solar panel and rechargeable battery at a cost of £3,100. Councillor Nisbet commented that it could be an opportunity for NCC Councillors to use their allowance for a similar scheme in other areas. An information booklet and price list will be placed in the Members Room.

War Memorials

The GSO said that the drains in Ridley Park have been checked and there are no issues. Two trees are to be removed this week to allow access for the disabled path. Consultation has taken place to ensure that rules have been adhered to with regard to handrails, wheelchair access etc. Committee noted and agreed with the suggestion that sandstone is used instead of granite as it can be cut on site. The tender documents will be opened on 8 February 2018 and work can commence once the planning applications have been approved.

Photographs will be taken at each stage of the process to document the changes.

	<p>The Town Clerk said that this has generated a great deal of work for Officers.</p> <p>Councillor Nisbet welcomed the report and the amount of detail provided by the GSO and commended him on his hard work.</p>
11	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR URGENT ATTENTION</p> <p><u>Boat Seats</u></p> <p>The boat seats are still being vandalized and are in need of repair. The GSO will follow this up with Mr Reith.</p>
12	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee will take place on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.</p>

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors:

J R Potts (Chair)

D Carr

K Nisbet

M Richardson

R Parker (Vice-Chair)

A Cartie

J Reid

S Stanger W Taylor

ACTIONS FROM COMMITTEE

Minutes No	Action	Responsible Officer	Comments	Date Action Completed
4.4	Procurement exercise to commence for the work to refurbish bus shelters.		Ongoing	
7	Costs for cctv in all play areas.	ES Officer	Complete	
4 27/7/17	Further information re financial support of the Ashington Market (NE65).	ES Officer	Ongoing	
5.4	Detailed breakdown of the costs for repairs to the war memorials.	ES Officer	Complete	
5.2 10/10/2017	Costings to replace bark at Bow Street with artificial grass	Allotments Officer	Complete	
5.3	Costings to replace Perspex with metal/signs in bus shelters	Allotments Officer	Complete	