



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Assets Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 26 August 2014 at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillors K Ellis (Chair in the Chair) O Potts (Vice Chair), M Parker, J R Potts and J Reid

Councillor R Parker was also in attendance

Members of the Public: None

Also present:

Stephen Rickitt – Town Clerk (Democratic Services)

Sean Robinson – Assets Officer

067/14/09: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors B Elliot, L Rickerby and D Rutter

068/14/10: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS

In the interests of transparency Councillor Ellis declared his trusteeship of the Briardale Centre and Councillor J Reid declared his membership of the County Council

069/14/11: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH JUNE 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th June 2014 were **AGREED** by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

At the suggestion of Councillor O Potts, the Committee wished to thank all the volunteers who had worked to restore the Sensory Garden.

Councillor Ellis will make enquires regarding the demolition of the Cowpen Road toilets as the Committee do not want demolition in progress during the Remembrance Day Commemorations.

070/14/12: ASSETS OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

(A copy of the Assets Officer's Reports are attached to the signed minutes)

The Committee discussed the reports and made the following decisions

1. Approval for the purchase of 40 litter bins (20 of each type).
2. Officers are to investigate why the County Council regards the MUGA at St John's Park as being the responsibility of the Town Council.
3. That priority is to be given to refurbishing the Axwell Drive and Burns Avenue Play Areas.
4. That the Finance Committee be ask to recommend that the expenditure incurred in 2013/2014, but disallowed by the internal auditor for inclusion in the accounts for 2013/2014, be taken from reserves.
5. That approval be given to switching funds from seats to CCTV for the Briardale Play Area extension.

6. Councillors were very concerned that assumptions were being made that the Town Council would automatically accept responsibility for play areas and other public realm equipment, without being consulted. Officers were instructed to inform the County Council that they should ensure there is evidence of formal provisional acceptance before awarding funding.

7. Councillors agreed that if there was 100% external funding for a new play area at Mulberry Close, the design by The Play Practice was the preferred choice.

8. Approval was given for the installation of signs at play areas at a maximum cost of £3500 plus VAT, the design to be agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

9. Officers were asked to investigate commuted maintenance sums for public realm equipment if they were required as a result of conditions in a planning consent. The Committee recommend that the Council adopt a formal policy of refusing to accept new public realm equipment without a commuted maintenance payment.

10. Councillors authorised the purchase of a further ten seats and asked officers to ensure the broken seats at Broadway Circle were replaced as soon as possible.

11. That two seats and litter bins be installed at the Cottingwood Green Play Area.

12. That all Town Councillors be provided with hard copies of the schedule of bus shelters and asked to check accuracy in their respective wards. It was agreed to give priority to the installation of the bus shelters at Ogle Drive and West Court.

071/14/13: JOINT PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) reminded the Committee of the decision of the Town Council on 17 July 2014 regarding the financing of the agreement.

The Committee decided or noted (as the case may be)

1. The draft minutes of the Partnership Board held on 17 July 2014 and asked that these be copied to all town councillors as a matter of routine, in addition to being considered at the next meeting of the Assets Committee.
2. The Finance Committee be asked to revise the budget and codes for FY 2014/2015 be amended to bring it into line with the agreement.
3. That the County Council had welcomed the increase in Town Councillor membership of the Partnership Board to three. The County Council would retain their member representation as one County Councillor.
4. Councillors are concerned that the level of grass cutting so far does not appear to comply with the agreement
5. Councillors have asked that a meeting be arranged in advance of the next Board so that the following can be provided
 - Details of the costs incurred in running the joint team (salary, hire charges etc)
 - Photographs for the standards
 - A schedule of when cuts and bus shelter cleaning is to be carried out. Councillors accepted this is weather dependant.
6. Councillors believe the monthly meetings of the Partnership Board should continue given the outstanding issues.

7. Councillors have asked that all Town Councillors be provided with a hard copy of the partnership agreement.

072/14/14: ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR URGENT ATTENTION

None.

073/14/15: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Assets Committee is to be held on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.05 pm.

DATE:

SIGNED:

MEMBERS OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE:

Councillor K Ellis (Chair)
Councillor B W Elliott
Councillor M Parker
Councillor J R Potts
Councillor O Potts (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J Reid
Councillor L Rickerby
Councillor D Rutter
Councillor A Turnbull