



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: PARK & PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MEETING, 8TH JUNE 2023

MINUTES - PARKS & PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2023

PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall A. Jackson P. Lea J. Morris

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: M. Ridgway

Public: 2 x Members of the Public

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm by former Committee Chairman, Cllr Lea

1. Election of Committee Chairman

Following a nomination by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr De-Wyrall, it was unanimously **resolved** to elect Cllr Lea as Committee Chairman for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

WTC/PPR/01/2324

2. Election of Committee Vice-Chairman

Following a nomination by Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded by Cllr Morris, it was unanimously **resolved** to elect Cllr Jackson as Committee Vice-Chairman for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

WTC/PPR/02/2324

3. Parks & Public Realm Committee – Terms of Reference

The revised Terms of Reference for the Parks & Public Realm Committee, ratified by Full Council on 11th May 2023, were noted.

4. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hotchkiss for this meeting.

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Councillors' Disclosure of Ordinary or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in relation to the agenda items in this meeting were received.

6. Minutes

After a proposal by Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded by Cllr Jackson, the minutes of the Parks & Public Realm Committee Meeting held on 2nd March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

7. Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded Cllr Morris – all in favour), whilst members of the public were invited to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of business being transacted at the meeting and about any other matter for which the Council has a responsibility.

A Member of the Public, new to Whitchurch, commented on the quality of our open spaces (and particularly Jubilee Park). Compliments were also given to the activities of voluntary groups in the town. A question was raised about additional bicycle racks and problems with dog fouling, both of which were noted (one being on the agenda for this meeting). The MoP also suggested that the Town Council considers entry into an 'In Bloom' competition at some future point.

There being no further items, Standing Orders were reinstated. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall – all in favour

8. Action Point Update

The Committee discussed a verbal update from the Proper Officer on actions from previous meetings:

a. Football Pitches **WTC/PPR/02/2223**

It was noted that this was still in progress, to be completed when circumstances permit. The Proper Officer will progress as soon as practicable with Cllr Tew, who had volunteered to oversee the activity.

b. Dog Fouling **WTC/PPR/06/2223**

It was noted that a Shropshire Council review Public Space Protection Orders has yet to be completed, with an update in April 2023. The Proper Officer will take this forward with Shropshire Council once completed.

c. RoSPA Maintenance Schedule

It was noted that this latest round of RoSPA Play Areas inspections is due to be undertaken this month. A schedule of work to address any highlighted issues will be formulated thereafter and the Committee updated accordingly. In the interim, the Parks & Public Realm Facilities Team will continue to address other areas of concern under the guidance of the Facilities Manager.

d. Town Signage Review **WTC/PPR/16/2223**

A follow-up meeting is to be held soon to review progress, which includes a revised Town Map and Photography Project (circulated for info), as outlined by the Proper Officer.

9. Solar Lighting – Extension of the 2022/23 Jubilee Park Project

Following consideration of a request from members of the public, it was unanimously **resolved** to propose to Full Council the use of CiL monies to complete the project (2 no. solar lights in the vicinity of the skatepark and 1 no. solar light in the Harry Richard's Garden). The Proper Officer will gather costs in the interim, estimated at circa £3K based on previous work/s. Proposed Cllr Lea, seconded Cllr Morris. **WTC/PPR/03/2324**

10. Jubilee Park – Harry Richards Garden, Automatic Irrigation Request

Following consideration of a request from voluntary Group, We Are Whitchurch, it was unanimously agreed to provide a low-cost solution this year, under the Proper Officer's remit and control, whilst full year requirements are assessed. Proposed Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded Cllr Jackson. **WTC/PPR/04/2324**

11. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Following a proposal from Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded by Cllr Jackson, it was **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

12. Confidential Action Point Update

The Committee discussed a verbal update from the Proper Officer on actions from previous meetings:

- a. **Deermoss Meadow (Developers)**
It was noted that this item was now deferred to Full Council. Removed from this committee schedule.
- b. **Jubilee Park Play Area WTC/128/2122**
It was noted that this action point is still on hold pending further actions.
- c. **Grounds Maintenance Contract – related matters**
Recent actions were agreed and approved. The Proper Officer will continue to update Committee is required. The Proper Officer was asked to pass positive feedback onto our newly formed Parks & Public Realm Facilities Team.

13. Whitchurch Place Plan Review

The Proper Officer outlined requirements to review the existing Place Plan prior to Shropshire Council’s deadline of 7th August. Changes to how the Place Plan will operate in future were also noted. Receipt of the current Place Plan and detailed instructions from Shropshire Council were acknowledged so that matters could be considered at the next Full Council Meeting. The Proper Officer noted several initial suggestions for inclusion, which would be brought to the attention of Full Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____