

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## Parks & Public Realm Committee

### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 7pm

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom due to the Coronavirus Pandemic Lockdown.

**Present:** Cllrs A. Hall, A. Chesters, A. Cooper, H. Vasey, & M. Haynes.

**In attendance:**

Zoë Dean – Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk  
3 members of the public.

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded.

**37. Apologies**

Cllr Snell – technical difficulties  
Cllr Gregory-Peake – work commitments

**38. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**39. Minutes**

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **P&PR/26/2021 RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September 2020 as an accurate record of that meeting.  
Chair to submit a signed copy of the minutes to the Council offices.

**40. Public Participation**

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was **P&PR/27/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of Public  
Participation.

A founding member of the public spoke about the All-Inclusive Play Area Project for  
Wheatsheaf Drive. The aim of the park is for disabled people to be able to enjoy park  
facilities with everyone, noting that Wheatsheaf Drive was available at the time the project  
was established. The area is overlooked by neighbours, but the project founder does not  
mind where the equipment is sited.

A second member of the public spoke in support of item no. 50: allotments, noting that  
there was a lack of provision both locally and nationally. The town's waiting list had  
been closed several years ago due to its length. Whitchurch currently has 12 allotments.

A third member of the public spoke in support of the all-inclusive play area scheme being  
installed in Jubilee Park, noting that previous equipment was removed from Wheatsheaf  
Drive due to vandalism.

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After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Cooper,  
It was **P&PR/28/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

#### **41. Accounts Update**

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was **P&PR/29/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the 2020/2021 Month 5 Accounts, as presented.

#### **42. Council Resolution Record**

The committee noted that there was nothing to remove from the Resolution Register.

#### **43. Request to use Jubilee Park for a Fitness Class**

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **P&PR/30/2021 RESOLVED** that committee had no objection to the request, highlighting that the Council would not take responsibility for the activity. It was noted that the organiser is to bear in mind that the park cannot be reserved for their sole use and there might be times when the park is not available, i.e. due to grass cutting.  
(All in favour)

#### **44. Youth Pod**

The Chairman noted that this item had not yet been progressed. Item to be carried over to the next meeting.

#### **45. Contractor Update**

The Town Centre Manager read out the contractors' update which highlighted push mower grass cutting in the inner park during a very wet period in early September. Week commencing 14/09/20 all areas were cut with the usual machinery. The committee noted that since the easing of lockdown there had been an increase in litter and the bins were being emptied on a daily basis.

#### **46. Vandalism in Jubilee Park**

The Town Centre Manager updated the committee on the recent spates of vandalism in Jubilee Park and the damage to the CCTV camera from the contractors' shed. The Chairman asked the committee for ideas and requested that Nobridge provide a report on suitable vegetation which could be planted in place of the broken fence at the skatepark.

#### **47. Wheatsheaf Drive Play Area**

Committee noted that a holistic view needed to be taken of all the play areas in town. Jubilee Park had been suggested for the All-Inclusive Play Area, but other views would also be gathered.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Haynes,  
It was **P&PR/31/2021 RESOLVED** to undertake an online survey for both the all-inclusive play area and Deermoss Park, targeting groups who use that area.

#### **48. Noticeboards**

Town Centre and canal signage was discussed.  
Cllr Hall volunteered to take the proposal for increase signage for the canal to the next Waterways Trust meeting as their Council Representative. It was agreed to look at

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locations for additional signage and use the parks maintenance budget for the Handyman to tidy up the gold and black signage in the park. Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was **P&PR/32/2021 RESOLVED** to request £1,5000 from CIL for the Canal Signage.

#### 49. Jubilee Park Contractor's Yard

The committee discussed the contractors' yard. The Chairman read of the terms of the lease which was set up as a 50 year lease in 2016. Committee noted that no structures could be erected without consent from Shropshire Council. It was also noted a price was to be obtained from Nobridge for removal of waste and tidying, and that local farmers are often in search of hardcore.

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Haynes, It was **P&PR/33/2021 RESOLVED** to tidy up the contractors' yard as a priority, investigating prices for skips.

#### 50. Allotments

The Chairman informed committee that allotments were included in the Whitchurch Place Plan and funds from the sale of land at Edward German Drive were gaining very little interest.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey, It was **P&PR/34/2021 RECOMMENDED** to actively seek out land within the town curtilage and add to next year's budget.

#### 51. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

The meeting closed at 20:03.

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman

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