



Public Services Committee  
Thursday 1 October 2015 - 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors R G Heseltine [Chairman], C Dow, Mrs K McIntyre, Mrs P Heseltine, Mrs W Clark, P Madeley and E Jaquin.

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer] and Les Chandler [Estate Manager]

Four members of the public were in attendance.

1. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

Mr M Haydon of Moorland Avenue explained that, while residents understand why they have been asked to pay for the conversion of the Council's mercury-based streetlights, they would like reassurances that they will not be asked to meet the routine costs of operating streetlights in the future. He also asked the Council to minimise running costs by using local contractors for repair and maintenance work to streetlights.

In response the Chief Officer explained that, while it is impossible to guarantee future funding, the Council makes every effort to budget effectively for the provision of services. He advised, however, that exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, such as those demanding the switch from mercury-based street lamps, can arise at any time.

With regard to the repair and maintenance of streetlights he advised that the Town Council enjoys more favourable terms in its contract with the County Council than it would if it contracted with local traders. This is because the County is able to achieve volume discounts, and therefore significant economies of scale, by contracting on a county-wide basis.

Mr J Thorogood of Brookside welcomed the Council's decision to meet the cost of converting mercury-based streetlights which benefit people beyond those living in the immediate vicinity. He noted, however, that STC059, which lights the public footpath from Newmarket Street to Birtwhistle's Yard has not been included on the list of these 'public utility' streetlights. He urged Councillors to reconsider this decision.

Mrs L Hudson and Mr D Brooks of The Close expressed concern about the condition of the verge on Carleton Road, adjoining the bridge carrying the mineral railway line over the highway. Although the verge used to be maintained regularly it has now been neglected for some time and has become seriously overgrown, impeding traffic on Carleton Road and damaging the rear boundary of properties on The Close.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Dawson (holiday).

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

Councillor Madeley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 on the agenda, given that he owns property adjacent to streetlight STC018 on Alexandra Court.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 6 August 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2015 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

6. To report and receive information arising from the minutes of items not on the Agenda from Members and the Chief Officer.

Members noted that the report by one of the Council's allotment tenants at the Committee's meeting in August, that the drop-down bollard on the southern pathway at Middletown Allotments had made it difficult for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to access a serious fire on site, had been exaggerated. The FRS has confirmed that although there was a fire on the allotments it was very small and the team called to the incident had not encountered any access problems.

7. To decide which of the Council's mercury-based (MBF/U) street lights should be replaced and which of the Council's street lights should be fitted with part-night photocells.

Given the results of the public consultation on mercury-based streetlights and part-night photocells it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Convert at the Council's expense the following MBF/U streetlights, without part-night photocells: STC010 at Cawder Lane; STC045, STC 046, STC047 and STC067 on Chapel Hill/Wood Grove; STC049 in Canal Yard; STC051 in Hallams Yard; STC059 on Brookside; and STC073 on Victoria Terrace.
- Convert, with part-night photocells, STC039 and STC041 on Harewood Road, and STC028 and STC 029 on Moorland Avenue, having collected the funds pledged by local residents.
- Write to the residents benefitting from the following streetlights to ask if they are prepared to make up the shortfall in funding required to convert them from

mercury-based lamps and fit part-night photocells: STC008 on Airedale Terrace; STC031 on Moorland Terrace; STC034 and STC035 on Raikeswood Crescent; STC037 on Raikes Avenue; STC054 on Craven Terrace; and STC075 on Brooklands Terrace.

- Fit part-night photocells to the following non-MBF/U streetlights: STC001 on Ings Avenue; STC006 on Aireview Terrace; STC014 off Upper Union Street; STC016 and STC017 at the rear of Southfield Terrace; STC018 on Alexandra Court; STC019 on Alexandra Ville; STC030 and STC032 on Moorland Terrace; STC038 on Raikes Avenue; STC040 on Harewood Road; STC048 on Mount Pleasant; STC050 on Botheby Wood; STC056 and STC058 on Brookside; and STC074 on Brooklands Terrace.
- Remove the following MBF/U streetlights: STC007 on Aireview Terrace; STC009 at the rear of Firth Street; STC012 and STC013 on Clifford Street; STC018 on Alexandra Court; STC036 on Brooklands Terrace; STC069 at Back Bridge Street; and STC076 on Bold Venture Street.
- Write to the residents benefitting from STC059 on Brookside and STC049 on Canal Yard to explain that Members have acknowledged that the lights benefit people living beyond the immediate area and that the Town Council will therefore pay for the lights to be converted from mercury lamps.

## 8. To consider matters relating to highway verge grass cutting.

Given that the grass verges on the A6131 Keighley Road, from Snaygill down to the bypass, lie within the boundaries of Bradleys Both it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should write again to the Parish Council reminding it that Skipton Town Council continues to maintain these areas on its behalf and to request a contribution towards the estimated annual cost of £300.

Since it will tidy up otherwise unsightly areas on significant routes into and out of the town, and add only a small sum to the annual grass-cutting budget, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should take responsibility for maintaining:

- the verge on the south side of Otley Road, just north of the junction with Kingsway, including the area under the railway bridge; and
- the verges on the north side of Embsay Road between the A6131 Harrogate Road and the junction with Cross Bank.

Because the growth of bushes and shrubs on the verge on the north side of Carleton Road, just before the bridge under the railway, is affecting traffic and making life difficult for residents on The Close whose properties back on to the area it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should take responsibility for keeping the vegetation under control.

With the lengthening of the grass-growing season in recent years, due to warmer ground temperatures, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should:

- order an additional cut of highways verges in October 2015, if required; and

- include provision for six or seven cuts in the year (starting in March or April) when setting the highways verge grass-cutting budget for 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should renew the existing grass-cutting contract with *ISS Facility Services – Landscaping Limited* to cover highways verge grass-cutting in 2016 (adjusting the price to include agreed additions to the specification) given that it represents best value in terms of price, affordability, and the quality of performance.

9. To consider matters surrounding the future use of Pony Plot 2 at Middletown Allotments.

Since a lack of demand has removed the need to divide Pony Plot 2 at the Middletown site into individual allotments it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should extend the existing tenancy of the plot for a further twelve months from 1 October 2015, on the basis that the tenancy will be reviewed again in June 2016.

Councillor Madeley left the meeting.

10. To undertake the quarterly review of the non-routine maintenance schedule.

Given that the bushes and shrubs in the planted areas at Lytham Close Play Area are regularly stolen it was **RESOLVED** that they should be replaced with boulders suitable for use in children’s play.

To preserve the character and integrity of the setts, and to help prevent further degradation, it was **RESOLVED** that the re-seating (and replacement where required) of the quarter segment stones making up the circular paving features around the bases of the trees on the High Street should be re-classified as a high priority.

In view of the continuing problems with anti-social behaviour at Millennium Green Play Area it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should accept the lowest quotation of £5,355 from Horton Landscaping Limited for the installation of powder-coated mesh fencing along the south-east boundary of the site, to enable the area to be locked up at night.

To prevent further vandalism and the theft of crops and equipment from Burnside Chapel Allotments it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should accept the lowest quotation of £5,340 from D J Wilkin Construction for the installation of security fencing along the north-east boundary of the site.

11. To receive notification on matters that members would like included on a future agenda.

None.

Meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

Chairman: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....