



Public Services Committee
Thursday 2 March 2017 - 6.30 pm

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

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

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

None.

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

None.

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 12 January 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2017 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

Item 7 – Council Budget for 2017-18: Members confirmed that the Committee had recommended an increase in rent levels for the Council's grazing land because rents had remained the same for more than ten years.

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

Highways Verge Grass-cutting: Members noted that Council has now resolved to give

the Chief Officer delegated authority to put in place arrangements to complete highways verge grass-cutting in-house in 2017.

7. To decide who, if anyone, should attend a meeting at Holy Trinity Church to assess the extent to which archaeological considerations will affect decisions about the rebuilding of The Bailey wall of the churchyard; and to determine what line the Council's representatives should take at the meeting if attending.

Members **NOTED** that the Diocese has arranged a meeting on 27 March 2017 at Holy Trinity Church to assess the extent to which archaeological considerations will affect decisions about the rebuilding of The Bailey wall of the churchyard.

Because Council has yet to finalise its policy with regard to the rebuilding of the wall it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Estate Manager should attend the meeting with a watching and listening brief.

8. To decide what action the Council should take if its access to The Ginnel Play Area is restricted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should ask the Environment Agency to find a solution to any access issues arising at The Ginnel as a result of its flood alleviation works.

9. To decide whether the Council should support a proposal from the local community to raise funds to replace the wooden climbing net and swings at Millennium Green Play Area.

Since the climbing net and swings at Millennium Green Play Area are still serviceable it was **RESOLVED** to delay seeking funds for their replacement until they are required.

10. To review the validity of the Trust Deed governing Millennium Green Play Area.

Following a thorough review it was **RESOLVED** that the Trust Deed governing Millennium Green Play Area remains valid.

11. To decide in principle whether the Council should offer to take on responsibility for the routine maintenance of the footpath at Black Walk if and when it has been improved.

Given that the Town Council has no legal rights or interests in the land it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should not take on any responsibility for maintaining the eastern section of the footpath at Black Walk.

However, because it represents an important pedestrian link between the railway station, the 'bus station and the town centre it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should investigate whether there is a legal basis on which a properly constituted Friends Group could take on the day to day management of the footpath.

12. To decide in principle whether the Council's senior grounds staff should be issued with smartphones.

Since it will deliver cost savings and operational efficiencies it was **RESOLVED** to give the Chief Officer delegated authority to make arrangements for the Council's two senior groundstaff to be issued with basic smartphones for official use.

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

None.

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: