

Public Services Committee
Thursday 5 November 2015 - 7.00 pm

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

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer] and Brett Butler [Town Centre Manager]

Three members of the public were in attendance.

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

Mrs Nancy Pawson (27 Roughaw Road) spoke in relation to agenda item eight and stated she has had an issue with standing water in and around her property for approximately three years. She advised there had been no issues in the previous 40 years Mrs Pawson had lived in her household.

Mrs Pawson stated to Members that she had previously contacted North Yorkshire County Council about the issue as water was running onto the highway but has had no response. She has also been in contact with Yorkshire Water who advised her that there was no water pipe or drainage issue. No-one will admit to it being their problem or take ownership which is why she has come before Members with her problem.

Mrs Pawson handed out photographs of the water issue to all Members and discussed it isn't just at her property that this water issue has occurred at, it stretches as far as 41 Roughaw Road.

Mrs Pawson stated it has become a liability to the residents especially over winter where the standing water can freeze turning into ice and cause trips and falls.

Mrs Pawson stated she understands this is not the remit of Skipton Town Council but as no-one is taking ownership of the situation, she has nowhere else to go and would like the Council to help her and the residents in that vicinity.

Mrs Christine Walton

Mrs Walton spoke in relation to agenda item seven stating she was the Secretary of Middletown Community Association. On behalf of the residents via the association Mrs Walton would like the Council to take control of the grassed area adjacent to the current

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Ginnel Play Area managed by Skipton Town Council. She stated the land is Craven District Council's but having spoken to them numerous times, they are not willing to do anything with the area, for example pay for new equipment to be installed after goal posts were removed.

Mrs Walton advised that dog walkers think it's there for them as it's just a green grassed area, but it was actually part of the playing area for children and had been stated previously, used to have goal posts on it until a parent complained that balls were being kicked into the young children's play area opposite and could cause an accident.

Mrs Walton stated that the Association would like to see picnic benches, more seating and potentially equipment for the over 12's in that area.

She added that the Association would be happy to help raise funds for the purchase of any equipment but couldn't take on the liability for maintenance or insurance and asked the Council if this was something they would be willing to take responsibility for.

- 2. To accept apologies for absence.

None. Cllr C Dow (absent).

- 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 1 October 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

Chairman:

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

The Chief Officer updated Members regarding highways verge grass cutting. Members were notified that there was a partial grass cut being organised for October and that this would be within budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring forward Item 8.

- 8. To consider matters relating to water run-off and minor flooding adjacent to properties on Roughaw Road, Skipton.

Members discussed the issues of the water problem and were disappointed with responses from Yorkshire Water and the lack of response from North Yorkshire County Council.

One member asked if a coloured dye could be put down certain drains which could tell us where the issue was.

Members discussed that Yorkshire Water has already stated to Mrs Pawson that they have been out to check the area but found no faults. Members **RESOLVED** that the Council ask Yorkshire Water for a detailed report of the visit.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Council lobby on behalf of the residents on Roughaw Road affected by the water issue and write to the following agencies for their input: Yorkshire Water, North Yorkshire County Council, Yorkshire Housing, Craven District Council and the Environment Agency.

It was also **RESOLVED** that all agencies should be invited to attend a site visit.

Members further **AGREED** that Yorkshire water should be asked about water consumption in the area and to advise of any usage that differed substantially from other properties on the street thus potentially ruling out a leak.

- 7. To consider a request from the Middletown Community Association regarding the provision of additional facilities adjacent to The Ginnel Play Area.

Members discussed that the area in question would shortly be subject to some substantial environmental works and that nothing could be completed until these works have finished in the early part of 2016.

Members discussed the possibility of the Environment Agency funding some new equipment due to the disruption and works being carried out. It was **RESOLVED** that

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the Chief Officer write to Craven District Council to ask if any funding will be forthcoming for improvements or if CDC would be willing to consider transferring ownership before the item is brought back to the Committee for further discussion.

One Member stated that the Council should ensure that sufficient resources are available before taking on extra areas of responsibility.

- 9. To consider a request for assistance with the removal of overgrowth on Gargrave Road, Skipton.

It was **RESOLVED** to offer the Council’s assistance in undertaking or arranging the required works, but **NOTED** that the full cost of any works would need to be met by the resident.

- 10. To consider proposals from the Town Centre Manager relating to attendance at a number of group travel exhibitions in 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Council’s attendance at the Tourism & Travel Show in March 2016 utilising funds from the Marketing and Promotions budget and at the Group Leisure and Travel Show in October 2016 subject to the Council’s budgeting process for 2016/17.

- 11. To consider a proposal from the Skipton Town Partnership for the installation of footfall counters in Skipton Town Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Town Council’s inclusion in partnership arrangements with the Skipton Town Partnership and Craven District Council for the provision of footfall counters in Skipton Town Centre.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Council would contribute an initial amount of £2000 towards the costs of the footfall counters and that this amount be taken from the Marketing and Promotions budget.

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

One Member raised a concern that an area of approximately 50 square metres of grass on the Cul-De-Sac of Wensleydale Avenue should be added to the Council’s grass cutting schedule. This piece of land is currently cut by residents. It was **RESOLVED** to add this to a future agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

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