

Public Services Committee
Thursday 28 April 2016 - 7.00 pm

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

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

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

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs P Madeley (hospital appointment) and C Dow (work commitments).

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 31 March 2016.

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2016 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.

Black Walk footpath: officers will be contacting stakeholders in the near future about the condition of the footpath.

Middletown Recreation Ground: Craven District Council has been asked to secure the provision of play equipment in conjunction with the development at Firth Street Mill.

Funding request: a resident's request for financial assistance from the Town Council has been withdrawn.

Unauthorised access to recreation grounds and play areas: all residents who have created unauthorised accesses are to be asked, without exception, to make good their boundary with Town Council property.

7. To discuss options relating to the security of Millennium Green Play Area.

Following the resignation of the previous incumbent it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should advertise, in the local press and in the Greatwood and Horse Close Community Association's newsletter, for a volunteer to lock up Millennium Green play area overnight.

In view of continuing anti-social behaviour in the area it was also **RESOLVED** that the play area should remain closed until a volunteer is appointed.

8. To consider issues relating to the installation of a vehicle gate on the footpath up to the southern end of the Middletown Allotments site.

Since it will help to enforce the 'no vehicle' restriction on the footpath up to the southern end of the Middletown Allotments, protecting the public in general and allotment tenants in particular, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should contribute 40% towards the District Council's installation costs for a gallows gate at the junction of the path with East Castle Street, and take responsibility for its future maintenance.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Council should offer to help affected tenants who can demonstrate that they are unable to maintain their allotment without vehicle access by providing them with an alternative plot and assisting them in bringing it up to the standard of their existing allotment.

9. To consider how to respond to comments made by a resident relating to the County Council's Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme.

Given that the County Council will not want to amend its streetlighting energy reduction programme without hard evidence of need it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should advise the resident who has raised concerns about the scheme that the Council will continue to monitor the situation and that it will push for a change to the scheme if and when there is any indication that it is not working to the benefit of the town.

10. To decide whether the windows should be replaced in the 'bus shelter at the junction of Broughton Road and Gisburn Road.

To protect the window reveals in the 'bus shelter at the junction of Broughton Road and Gisburn Street from frost damage it was **RESOLVED** to seal them with mortar.

- 11. To consider whether the Town Council should sell the land it owns at Back Walton Street to the north of Bold Venture Recreation Ground.

Since it has no recreational value it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should investigate possible uses for the redundant area at Bold Venture Recreation Ground, adjacent to the railway line, and for the adjoining land the Council owns at Back Walton Street.

- 12. To receive updates regarding: the perimeter wall at Holy Trinity Church; and projects and initiatives being supported by the Skipton Town Partnership.

Holy Trinity: a meeting is being arranged with the Council’s structural engineer to finalise arrangements for the surveys which are required before a scheme can be developed to resolve the issues with the boundary wall of the churchyard.

Skipton Town Partnership: there has been no negative feedback in response to the item on Skipton which was aired in mid-April on BBC’s *The One Show*.

- 13. To consider excluding press and public for consideration of item 14 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude all press and public.

The meeting returned to public session.

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

None.

Meeting closed at 7.47 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: