

## HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Green and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held at The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm**

### **Present**

#### **St Michael's Ward**

Cllr J Taylor

#### **St Paul's Ward**

Cllr T Darrant (Chairman)

Cllr R Coombs

### **In attendance**

Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk

1 member of the public

## **PART A**

**19/13** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the member of the public in attendance.

### **19/14 To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr D Sheridan-Shaw (personal reasons)

Cllr C Kolek (personal reasons)

Cllr J McNally (personal reasons)

Cllr J Wyatt (personal reasons)

### **19/15 To receive declarations of interest**

Cllr R Coombs – Member of the Honiton Glen Conservation Group.

### **19/16 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.**

None were made.

### **19/17 Public question time on items on the agenda**

There were no public questions

### **19/18 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Green and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Cllr Darrant asked if the map of the green open spaces in Honiton prepared by Cllr Mike Allen in or around 2014 had been located? The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that it had not yet been found but that she would continue in her efforts to locate it.

## PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 19/19 HTC Permissive path at Woodhill View

Cllr Coombs presented his report and the following points were discussed:

- EDDC should be asked to fund the handrail.
- What agreement is there with EDDC regarding maintenance of the path?
- The permissive path leads to an EDDC open space.
- The permissive path section of the path is very steep and slippery.
- Cost of a handrail would not be excessive.
- Who owns the permissive path? Is this still the developer?

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to approach EDDC to obtain clarification as to the status of the footpath and to discuss possible funding of a handrail. Members of the Committee would investigate the possible costs of a handrail which they would provide to the Town Clerk as part of the current budget setting exercise.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

### 19/20 Wadmore Lane

Cllr Coombs presented the report and the following points were discussed:

- The historic landslip has historically been navigated by going off the footpath onto private land. However, this is currently obstructed by the tenant farmer.
- Wadmore Lane is a highway but is no longer maintainable by the highway authority.
- Who is responsible for the maintenance of Wadmore Lane?
- Where would the funding come from for the proposed footbridge?

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that attempts be made to secure funding to provide a footbridge at Wadmore Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

### 19/21 Parishes Together Ditching and Drainage projects

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the report. She confirmed that Cllr Coombs had agreed to clear vegetation away from the gullies in Parsonage Lane prior to Skanska commencing. A meeting has been arranged with Justin Lascelles on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November to discuss proposed ditching works at Roundball Lane. The owner of Marl pits Farm has given his agreement to the proposed works to Footpath 23.

The Deputy Town Clerk also confirmed that it was anticipated that there would be a  
**Signed Chair**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Grant balance remaining once these initial works had been completed by Skanska. However, the deferred works at Wadmore Lane would need to be funded and as such there may not be any funds available for additional works not yet agreed.

The report was noted.

### **19/22 Schedule 14 Public Rights of Way Application – Footpath between Whitmore Way and Sidmouth Road**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the report and the following was discussed:

- The decision from the Planning Inspectorate may not be given until March 2020 at the earliest.
- Members advised that they had no special circumstances over and above the information already provided to pass onto the Planning Inspectorate.
- The grass verges are no longer being cut.
- Whilst the footpath may be privately owned it looks like a public walkway.
- Could HTC purchase the footpath from the owner?
- Who is responsible for the maintenance currently? There are branches overhanging the path which are a hazard to users.
- On whose land are the trees with the overhanging branches?
- What action if any should be taken prior to the Planning Inspectorate providing their decision? It was agreed that no action would be taken until the decision had been given.

The report was noted.

### **19/23 Lilley Walk Gate**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the report and the following was discussed:

- The footpath is very short in length and goes from an adopted pavement to the boundary of an EDDC open space.
- Is this footpath private or public?
- EDDC had previously indicated that the gate would be opened up to the public.
- The gate is sometimes unsecured but there is no advance warning of this.

Members **RESOLVED** by 2 votes in favour with one abstention to recommend to Full Council that the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to make further enquiries regarding the matter.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

### **19/24 Roundball Wood**

Cllr Darrant presented his report and the following was discussed:

- The current budget for Roundball Wood is very small.
- There are 2 fallen trees which should be removed.
- As it is very muddy disclaimer notices are proposed.
- The Town Clerk has advised that funding could be made available from the Environmental Services budget.
- Could the Town Clerk authorise the erection of disclaimer notices as a management decision on the basis that it is a health and safety issue for insurance purposes.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that disclaimer notices be erected at each of the wood's three entrances to make users of the area aware of the slipping risks of the boardwalks and bridges in wet conditions and particularly in winter.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Coombs.

### **19/25 Bench from the Glen**

Cllr Darrant presented his report and the following was discussed:

- The Council's insurers have previously expressed concerns regarding the location of the bench which is being stored by a member of the public.
- Dave Retter has suggested that the bench be viewed to ascertain its current condition.
- Should the bench be moved to HTC premises e.g. the new container at the Beehive when viewed, especially in view of the recent loss of the Toll Gate which was being stored by EDDC?

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the bench should be moved from its present location and stored in the Council's new container until it can be repaired.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Coombs.

### **19/26 Relocation of benches to Dowell Street**

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that she had discussed this with the Town Clerk who had confirmed that this had already been agreed as a management decision and was already in motion.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the benches at the A35 and the A375 be relocated to Dowell Street.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Taylor

### **19/27 To close the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed Chair

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020