

**Minutes of the Green & Open Spaces Committee Meeting of the Town Council
held on Monday 18th October 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr J Bonetta
Cllr A Proszowska

St Paul's Ward

Cllr K Cloke (Chair)
Cllr R Coombs
Cllr S Keene

In attendance

Heloise Marlow, Deputy Clerk
3 members of the public (via Zoom)

21/01/GOS Chair

Cllr Cloke nominated Cllr Coombs, and this was seconded by Cllr Proszowska. Cllr Coombs thanked Cllrs for the nomination but advised that he could not accept.

The Committee elected a Chair for the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr Cloke as Chair of the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Proszowska

21/02/GOS Vice Chair

The Committee elected a Vice Chair for the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr Proszowska as Vice Chair of the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Coombs

21/03/GOS Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hurford (St Michael's Ward) and Cllr Hanratty (St Paul's Ward). It was noted that Cllr Munge had resigned from the Committee.

21/04/GOS Declarations of Interests

Committee received the following Interests:
Cllr J Bonetta - Personal interest (Item 17)

21/05/GOS Dispensations

There were no requests for, or grants of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of the meeting.

21/06/GOS Public Question Time for items on the agenda

There were no public questions.

21/07/GOS Minutes of the Green & Open Spaces Committee held on 23rd November 2020.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to refer approval of the accuracy of the minutes of the Green & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2020 as published and circulated with the agenda to Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.

21/08/GOS Terms of Reference (ToR)

Committee considered and amended as necessary the existing TOR including paragraph 1 and to include that the Committee would work with the Strategy Committee in relation to strategic planning and environmental matters.

Members RESOLVED to approve the ToR as amended and to Recommend to Full Council.

For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

21/09/GOS Frequency and day/ time of meetings

Committee agreed the frequency of meetings and preferred day/time.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to meet at 7pm every 4 months and when necessary.

Proposed by Cllr Proszowska and seconded by Cllr Coombs.

21/10/GOS Budget setting 2022-2023

Committee considered the draft budget headings under Environmental Services and made the following points:

- Grants totalling £60,000.00 have been applied for – what impact will this have on the budget?
- HCC have applied for financial assistance – what impact will this have on the budget?
- A contractor has now been appointed to carry out footpath maintenance – what costings has he provided and is there enough in the budget to do the work?
- How much of the budget this year will be underspent, and will this go into reserves?

- Is the P3 grant received annually from Devon County Council included in the draft footpath budget figure of £2000.00? It is not listed under income.
- What does the *dog bin maintenance* heading cover? It was noted that HTC has 3 dog bins in Honiton – is there any budget for additional dog bins to be provided?
- What does the heading *weed control* cover?
- Can the Town Clerk provide more detail as to what all the budget headings cover?
- Allotments should come under the remit of the Green & Open Spaces rather than Town Management.
- Should Environmental Services be provided with an increased budget?
- Could the Town floral maintenance costs be covered by sponsorship by local business as in Exmouth and Taunton, to allow the budget under that heading to be reallocated to other costs?
- Is the draft budget of £4000.00 sufficient to cover the works required at Roundball Wood for which a quote has now been received?
- What does the heading for *bus shelter maintenance* cover? As regards the Sidmouth Road bus top, have Fernbank been contacted to provide the specification of works required for them to then take on that bus stop?
- Should there be a budget heading for the Riverside Walks project?
- What CIL money will HTC receive and what can it be spent on?
- Should HTC raise its precept to pay for the services/projects/grants it wants to provide?

Cllr Keene joined the meeting at 19.55pm.

- Could HTC lead a group of volunteers to carry out works?
- Does HTC need to increase its staffing?

Members RESOLVED unanimously to request that the Town Clerk provide more information regarding the budget headings having regard to the queries raised above.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

21/11/GOS Project Review and Prioritisation

Members considered the list of current and proposed work with a view to providing the Finance & Policy Committee with information as to what should be in the work programme and its prioritisation.

Members agreed that the allotments and the P3 inspections were ongoing projects which needed to be continued. Members discussed other works and **RESOLVED unanimously that the following should be prioritised.**

1. **Roundball Wood works.**
2. **Wadmore Lane works**
3. **Stout Farm works**
4. **Sidmouth Road bus shelter**
5. **Works relating to climate change.**

Proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.

21/12/GOS Footpath 27 – Whitmore Way

The Deputy Clerk presented her report. The following was discussed:

- FP 27 consists of the tarmac path and the concrete border.
- The grass verges remain the property of the Crown.
- Should HTC contact Burgess Salmon Solicitors who represent the Crown to request that they maintain the grass verges?
- If a barrier is erected on the FP, a vehicle could still drive around it via the grass verge?

Members RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Full Council that quotes be obtained as to the cost and feasibility of erecting a barrier at the Whitmore Way end of FP27.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

21/13/GOS Schedule 14 Application – Copper Castle to Springfield Road

Members **NOTED** the report.

21/14/GOS Members RESOLVED unanimously to extend the meeting until 9.30pm.

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Bonetta

21/15/GOS River Gissage Walk

Cllr Coombs presented his report.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Full Council that pursuing the three additional sections of the Riverside Walk be a priority and added to the work programme.

Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.

21/16/GOS Wadmore Lane

Cllr Coombs presented his report.

Members discussed the following:

- HTC has the signage to be erected.
- A contractor has been appointed but he has not yet visited the site.
- The work would form part of the work programme given to the contractor.
- What type of footbridge could be provided and at what cost.
- Would Devon County Council provide a bridge as offered in the past?

Members agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council that pursuing the works identified at Wadmore Lane be a priority and added to the work programme.

21/17/GOS Road near Stout Farm

Cllr Coombs presented his report.

Members agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the work listed below be a priority.

- 1) Public way signs erected at the County Road and where the roads meet. An additional signpost would be helpful where there is a sudden change of direction. At present the only indication of public status is the same designation on Ordnance Survey maps as with Wadmore Lane.
- 2) Moving an unauthorised gate and removing obstructions.
- 3) Providing one and probably two footbridges.
- 4) Investigating an area of environmental concern.

21/18/GOS Allhallows Playing Field

Cllr Proszowska provided a verbal report advocating that Allhallows Playing Field be a dog free zone. Members discussed the following:

- The land is owned by EDDC.
- EDDC leases the field to the Football and Rugby Clubs.
- Terms of those leases are unknown.
- Several years ago, Cllr Twiss organised a "Love All Hallows" meeting – what resulted from that meeting?

Members RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Full Council that HTC write to EDDC and enter into discussions as to whether All Hallows Field could become a dog free zone.

21/19/GOS P3 Footpath Inspections

The Deputy Clerk presented her report.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to:

- a) **Create a P3 Working Group; and**
- b) **To vote councillors onto the working group at the Full Council meeting on the 8th November 2021.**

Proposed by Cllr Proszowska and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.

21/20/GOS To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.