

**Minutes of the Green & Open Spaces Committee Meeting of the Town Council
held on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr A McCollum

St Paul's Ward

Cllr K Cloke

Cllr J Furneaux-Gotch

In attendance

Heloise Marlow, Deputy Clerk

Cllr R Coombs (via Zoom)

22/34/GOS Apologies for absence

Cllr C Maunder (personal)

Cllr A Proszowska (personal)

22/35/GOS Declarations of Interests

None

22/36/GOS Dispensations

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

22/37/GOS Public Question Time for items on the agenda

None received.

22/38/GOS Minutes of the Green & Open Spaces Committee held on 7th February 2022 and 5th December 2022.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to add a description of the 3 sections of the proposed Riverside Walk to the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2022 for approval at the next meeting of the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Furneaux-Gotch.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Green and Open Spaces Committee held on 5th December 2022 as published and circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Furneaux-Gotch

22/39/GOS Swift Nest Boxes for Honiton

Members received a presentation from Mr R Bailey and Ms M Thomas. The following information was provided in addition to the report previously circulated:

- Additional contacts with local swift experts and networks had been established.
- 2021/22 survey data for Honiton included approximate population figures and preferred sites for swift boxes.
- One identified site was the Scouts building – the current roofing works were ensuring the preservation of the existing nest. Another possible site was the Baptist Church.
- The cost of swift boxes had been reduced to £6 and the scouts were involved in the fabrication of boxes.
- Aim was to secure and extend the swift population which had declined by 50% over the last 25 years.
- EDDC have adopted planning policies which require all new builds to have swift bricks.
- A meeting was being arranged with Devon Wildlife Trust and a representative of St Michaels Church to provide swift boxes in churches.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Full Council that Honiton Town Council endorses the principle of swift nest boxes as part of the Council's response to reversing urban biodiversity loss and that Honiton Town Council supports the project proposal and agree to receive and consider concise project progress reports submitted to any future Committee meeting in 2023/24.

Proposed by Cllr Furneaux-Gotch and seconded by Cllr McCollum

22/40/GOS Parish Paths Partnership

The Deputy Clerk presented her report which was **NOTED**.

22/41/GOS Schedule 14 Application – Copper Castle to Springfield Road

The Deputy Clerk presented her report.

Cllr Coombs advised that in addition to the residents of Springfield Road, the path had been used for leisure walking.

Members suggested using Facebook to promote the need for additional user evidence forms. Cllr Coombs advised that he would provide the Deputy Clerk with the contact details for a resident of Honiton who might be able to assist.

22/ 42/GOS Public Spaces Protection Order for Allhallows

Members **NOTED** the following:

- There was now an EDDC dog warden.
- The enforcement of PSPO's is still problematic.

- The extent of any Public Spaces Protection Order for Allhallows needed to be clarified.

22/42/GOS Siting of wagon on roundabout at Battishorne Way

The Deputy Clerk presented her report.

Cllr Coombs queried whether the roundabout was owned by the Crown and whether siting a wagon on it would amount to trespass.

Members **NOTED** the report.

22/43/GOS Barrier at Whitmore Way end of FP 27

Members discussed the proposal which had originated from a member of the public. Members discussed the following:

- The different proposals for a barrier (barrier, bollards, hedging).
- The need for a barrier.
- Land ownership and especially the fact that the Town Council did not own the footpath or the grass verge.
- Maintenance of any barrier erected and associated costs.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Full Council that Honiton Town Council should NOT appoint a contractor to provide a barrier or bollards or hedging at the Whitmore Way end of FP 27.

Proposed by Cllr Furneaux-Gotch and seconded by Cllr McCollum.

22/44/GOS To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.