

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held at Totton & Eling Community Centre, Totton at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 10th November 2021.

PRESENT Chairman - Councillor A.H. Davis
Councillors, D.J. Russell, A.J. Hardingson, , M. Kangarani, N.S. Penman,
and C.L. Rackham.

Also present Councillors: K.V. Crisell, B. R. Thompson & J.H. Sleep.

Deputy Town Clerk and Executive & HR Manager.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors A. L. Brunsdon, S.L. Churn,
D. Hills and I.A. Murray.

**DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS NOT REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF
THE FULL COUNCIL**

- 124/21 **MINUTES RESOLVED**
that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September 2021 be signed as
a true record.
- 125/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 126/21 **MONIES FROM BROKENFORD LANE DEVELOPMENT**
The Deputy Town Clerk reiterated the previously distributed email and map
from the New Forest District Council, and emphasised that the approximate
amount of £66,500 was specifically required to be spent on new children's
play facilities within the immediate area of the original development and that
there were time restrictions on utilising the funds. With regard to previous
discussions and requests that the play equipment at Eling Recreational
Ground be updated, it was recommended that works be tendered out and
those subsequent inclusive schemes, which would see the installation of
additional equipment and the removal of any user neglected apparatus, be
returned to the Amenities Committee at a later date for further consideration.
This matter was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that tenders be
sought for further discussion.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk arrange tendering for the supply and installation of new equipment for the Eling Recreational play area, for consideration by the Amenities Committee.

NON DELEGATED ITEMS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

127/21 APPROVAL OF AMENITIES REVENUE BUDGETS, HIRE RATES AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL GARDENER

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the revenue budgets for approval, questions and answers were as follows:

- Why was there a significant increase for the salaries shown for the Garage Youth Centre for 22/23. It was advised that the tender amount had been agreed in meeting minutes of 15th May 2021 in item 52/21 to retain the present level of services. Additionally, grants obtained by the Garage Youth Centre would also be reviewed in regard to future Council funding in September 2022.
- What did the + 4% mean in the budgets column. It was advised that this was the projected figure of inflation.
- Could the cricket club rates be increased. It was advised that match charges were dictated by the relevant cricketing body. Additionally, the club operated an open accounts system, income to the Council was based on the ‘profit share’ in the lease and renewal of the lease was due shortly.

It was unanimously agreed that the Amenities Revenue Budgets be approved.

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the Hire Rates for approval, questions and answers were as follows:

- How were the proposed rates achieved. It was advised that suggested rates were based on relevant competitors’ rates and projected use of facilities with subsequent expected expenditure.

Hire charges were unanimously agreed.

The Deputy Town Clerk reiterated the decision recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021, in item 102/21 relating to the employment of a gardener for planting in the Town, and that there were two options to consider. Option 1 would be to employ a gardener, which would incur employment costs, holidays and hours based on seasonal and volume of work required.

Option 2 would be to utilise the services of a contractor, which was considered the more flexible option and would allow cover for holidays and adjustability with regard to buying in hours, as required. An amount of £20,000 per annum was put forward for consideration to include a gardener's services and plants/planters for Town Centre planting. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor D.J. Russell and seconded by Councillor C.L. Rackham that a budget of £20,000 be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval for gardening and planting in the Town Centre, and further discussion on options 1 and 2 at a later Amenities Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED

- (a) for approval of the 2022/23 Amenities revenue budgets to the Policy & Resources Committee.
- (b) for approval of the 2022/23 hire rates to the Policy & Resources Committee.
- (c) A budget of £20,000 be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval for Gardening and Town Centre planting.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm