

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022

PRESENT: Councillor C Goodhind (Chair)
Councillor C Forgacs (Vice-Chair)
Councillor G Cooke
Councillor J Crundell
Councillor C Houghton
Councillor L Lewis

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P Aves
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor S Mortimer

OFFICERS:	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Hugh Davies	Amenities Manager
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the press and two members of the public were present. Six members of the public attended the meeting virtually.

Adrienne Westbrook raised her concerns that since the abolition of the KGV (King George V Park) Sub Committee, the topic had not been considered by the Asset Management and Amenities Committee for some time. The following questions were posed:

- what process will the Town Council follow to ensure continued improvements in the town's parks and how are members of the public able to find out what is happening in the KGV park?
- has the burnt bench been replaced in the KGV park?
- what is the KGV park sensory garden?
- would picnic benches in the KGV park be installed in the sensory garden and by the riverside?
- what events have been planned to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee; is a picnic going to be organised?
- will the sports roadshow take place during the summer holidays?
- what progress has been made regarding the suggestion to plant a cherry blossom arcade through the walkway from Lowbourne to Waitrose?
- what progress is being made regarding tree planting in the old dog area in the KGV park to mitigate the flooding issue?
- when would the play equipment that had been removed last August from the KGV park be replaced?
- what is the progress on the Pavilion?
- when will the zip wire be replaced?
- what are the council's plans for the removal of graffiti from the skateboard park?

- would the council consider the re-instatement of the KGV Sub Committee?

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, confirmed that the Town Council will respond in writing to the questions raised.

89/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors S Crundell, Price and Oatley.

90/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

91/21 Minutes

Councillor Mortimer requested the minutes of 6 December 2021 be amended to show that she and the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, were in attendance.

It was proposed the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Houghton and

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the minutes of 6 December 2021 having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record, subject to Councillor Mortimer's query, and signed by the Chair, Councillor Goodhind.

92/21 Motion for a Donate a Bench Policy

It was proposed by Councillor Goodhind seconded by Councillor J Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders.

David Roderick explained that he would like to donate a bench with two brass plaques. He stated that he would like the bench sited near the Adventure Centre to give a good view of the river. The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, explained that both individuals and businesses would be given the opportunity to sponsor a bench, should the motion be approved.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, reinstated Standing Orders.

Councillors considered the pricing structure, type of benches (current Town Council benches were made of recyclable materials and were vandal proof), plaque design and siting of benches.

It was proposed by Councillor J Crundell, seconded by Councillor Lewis and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to instruct officers to produce a Donate a Bench policy for approval by Full Council.

93/21 Use of the Roundhouse as a Parcel Drop off and Collection Point

The report of the Town Clerk was noted.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, explained that the original motion had been proposed by Councillor Alford but that the restrictions imposed by delivery companies requiring an active manned retail outlet highlighted in the Town Clerk's report made the Roundhouse unsuitable as a drop off and collection point.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Cooke and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to accept the recommendations contained within the report as follows:

- the Town Clerk would continue to research a suitable and worthwhile community use for the Roundhouse.
- a community consultation exercise would be carried out to gauge ideas, giving an opportunity to share and provide the community with some of the history of the Roundhouse.
- to involve the media to see if they would be interested in the story and the promotion of the community consultation.

94/21 Draft Climate Strategy

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had made applications to two organisations for trees which could be planted in King George V park and another area of land adjacent to Avonside and suggested they could be dedicated to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor J Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adopt the draft Climate Strategy policy with Priority for People continuing to work on the items that form part of their remit.

It was proposed by Councillor Forgacs, seconded by Councillor Cooke and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to ask the Environment and Climate Working Group to progress the three projects listed below:

1. Tree and wild flower planting
2. A climate action day
3. A weekly series of environmental messaging

95/21 Update on Town Council Toilets

The Interim Head of Operations provided the following progress report:

- the lease for the Bath Road toilets between Wiltshire Council and the Town Council is due to be returned by the Town Council's Solicitor.
- quotes Have been requested for repair works to the roof of the Bath Road Toilets.
- power and water are in place and two cubicles should be open within a month.
- replacing the CCTV cameras in the toilets would cost approximately £3,000.
- It was suggested that the back wall of the Bath Road toilets could be boarded for use by graffiti artists.

The Interim Head of Operations provided the background to Eco Loos explaining that should the purchase of these be supported, the Council would be the first Council in the country to have Eco Loos.

The Interim Head of Operations confirmed that the majority of works to the Market Place toilets had been completed.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor J Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to use the £50,000 Earmarked Reserves, already allocated by Council, to:

- purchase two Eco Loos at a cost of £15,000 each.
- carry out the upgrade to CCTV at Bath Road toilets.
- finalise the repairs to open the Bath Road toilets.

Meeting Closed at: 8.03 pm

Signed:

Dated: