

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 7th August 2023

PRESENT: Councillor T Price (Chair)
Councillor C Goodhind (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor S Crundell
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor C Forgacs
Councillor J Hubbard
Councillor J Oatley

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Westbrook

OFFICERS:	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Andrew Meacham	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were three members of the public, one member of the public virtually and one member of the press present

Adrienne Westbrook. In her work at The Community Larder she sees many people attempting to use the toilets in Church Street. Could the council arrange for signs to be put on the toilets advising they are closed and where the nearest toilets were.

She also requested greater openness for the Park Working Group. When had it last sat? What was the membership? She quoted from a manifesto statement of Together for Melksham dated 17th May 2021 and commented that nothing had been done to take it forward. She asked why it was a working group and not a sub-committee? Why had no project plan come out of the survey that was conducted?

Ian Cardy. Is the current KGV Lighting Scheme no longer viable? If there are to be new proposals, where is the budget coming from? Will the council consult on the project and the costs? He believes there are other more urgent calls on resources. Council needs to plan and adapt for the climate emergency in areas such as tree planting for shade, building design and flooding.

Joe McCann. At the last meeting £68000 was signed off for lights in KGV. How has it got from a costed scheme to being over budget? He believed the scheme included installing a power supply for events. Has the Head of Operations decided to go ahead with this without a council decision? How many quotes were obtained for the power supply? Regarding Awdry Avenue play area., who is the retained consultant and why were they not asked to do the work in the first place? The Town Mayor and Chair of the Committee Councillor Price believed that the wording on Awdry Avenue is unintentionally misleading and it was not intended to go to a specialized consultant. Other matters would have to await the return of the Head of Operations. The Town Clerk asked Joe McCann to put his questions in writing to ensure a full reply.

Ian Cardy. Asked why the author of the report was not present for the discussion. The Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Committee Councillor Price said the reality was that he was not present and committee must work accordingly.

Adrienne Westbrook. Asked if Awdry Avenue been referred to the Parks Working Party. The Town Mayor and Chair of the Committee Councillor Price said that a decision had been made by the Asset Management and Amenities Committee.

180/23 Apologies

There were no apologies.

181/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

182/23 Minutes

Councillor Hubbard asked that the reference in the minutes of 5 June 2023 to the minutes of 11 April 2023 be amended to read:-

“Councillor Hubbard asked that it be recorded that a guarantee was secured from Piers Dibben of Healthmatic that no charges in perpetuity would be made to the Council for emptying the toilets.”

Subject to above the minutes 5 June 2023 having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by The Chair, Councillor Price

183/23 King George V Park

184/23 Shambles Festival

James Wilkins, the organiser of the festival was present.

It was noted that the Melksham Town Council Parks Booking Form mistakenly gives the date of the event as Saturday 1st June 2023 rather than 2024.

There was a discussion on noise complaints and James gave details of noise management measures.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by the Town Mayor Councillor Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the application to hold The Shambles Festival 2024 in King George Playing Fields.

185/23 Report of Head of Operations.

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Committee Councillor Price, second by Councillor Hubbard, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to advance discussion of this item.

1. KGV event power and lighting project.

Councillor Hubbard spoke to this item, after which the Town Clerk left the meeting and there was further discussion on Councillor Hubbard's comments.

It was proposed by the Vice Chair Councillor Goodhind and seconded by Councillor Aves that further discussion on the Head of Operations report be deferred. Councillor Oatley pointed out that the report did not ask for any decisions. Councillor Ellis felt the report should be noted and asked for it to be minuted that the committee was unhappy with the situation.

Standing orders were suspended at this point and other points in the discussion to allow members of the public present to comment.

Joe McCann suggested councillors map out a route for the lighting and request quotes.

Adrienne Westbrook expressed her view that the event power supply and lighting are separate issues. Events such as the Food & River Festival can operate without lights but not without power.

There were discussions on types of lighting, reasons for wanting lighting, route of lighting and public consultation.

The Vice-Chair Councillor Goodhind withdrew his motion to defer.

There was discussion on whether an expert who the council invites to report on the lighting can then legally tender for the contract. The meeting was suspended for a short time to seek clarification.

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Committee Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Forgacs and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to instruct Paul Weymouth of Light Fantastic, or another expert if he is not available, to bring forward suggestions for lighting in the KGV.

2. KGV fencing.

The report was noted.

3. Eco Loos.

Vice-Chair Councillor Goodhind advised the committee of a recent meeting held with Healthmatic and reported that Healthmatic were committed to finishing the project as originally envisioned. There was discussion on the capacity of the vaults when dug and the frequency of collection.

It was requested that there be confirmation on exactly what the council will have once the process has been completed.

4. Cricketers Café.

Councillor Hubbard stated that funding had already been agreed and a lease needed to be issued as soon as possible. It was requested that the Town Clerk advise the position on the lease by the next day.

5. Goal Posts at Forresters.

The report was noted.

6. Awdry Avenue play area.

The report was noted.

7. Water troughs in Allotments.

It was suggested that the Operations Manager audit the allotments for water supplies and recommend, without the need for a formal report, on troughs needed and install at the various sites.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by the Town Mayor Councillor S Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to allocate up to £1500 for improved access to water troughs and provision of extra troughs where required.

8. Amenities Assistants.

The report was noted with a request that councillors be advised by email when new members of staff are appointed.

9. Roundhouse and Church Wall.

The report was noted.

10. Assembly Hall roof repairs.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by the Town Mayor Councillor S Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Ellis, Councillor Oatley, Councillor S. Crundell and Councillor Aves to a Tender Group to look at the tender specification.

11. BMX Track and Sensory Garden.

The report was noted.

186/23 Dog Agility Area

The item was noted.

187/23 KGV Maintenance Shed

The item was noted.

Meeting Closed at: 9.30 pm

Signed:

Dated: