

Whitchurch Town Council

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Parks & Public Realm Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom due to the Corona Virus Pandemic Lockdown.

Present: Cllrs A. Hall, H. Vasey, R. Snell & M. Haynes.

In attendance:

Cllr B. Duffy,

Nicola Young – Town Clerk

Zoë Dean – Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk

4 members of the public.

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded. Cllr Hall stated that he was also recording the meeting.

21. Election of Chairman

Cllr Haynes nominated Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Hall.

Cllr Snell nominated Cllr Vasey, no seconder.

Cllr Hall was elected as the new Chair of the Parks & Public Realm Committee.

22. Resignation

Cllr Radford had resigned from the Parks and Public Realm Committee via email.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/16/2021 RESOLVED** to formally accept Cllr Radford's resignation.

23. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Snell nominated Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Haynes.

Cllr Vasey nominated Cllr Snell, no seconder.

Cllr Vasey was elected as the new Vice Chairman of the Parks & Public Realm Committee.

24. Apologies

Cllr Gregory-Peak.

25. Declarations of Interest

None received.

26. Minutes

Cllr Vasey proposed the minutes be accepted, no seconder for the minutes was received.

The minutes from 2nd July 2020 were not passed.

27. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

Initialled:

It was **P&PR/17/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of Public Participation.

A member of the public drew the committee's attention to a 7-10 metre hedge blocking light from said resident's garden, requesting that the Council sells the adjacent land to them or cuts the hedge.

The Chair noted that this item featured later within the agenda.

Representatives from Whitchurch Blackberry Fair requested help from the Council in their ongoing search to find a home for their event storage.

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey

It was **P&PR/18/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

28. Accounts Update

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/19/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the 2020/2021 Month 4 Accounts, as presented.

29. Council Resolution Record

The Town Clerk went through the resolution list to update members.

The Town Centre Manager updated the committee on the imminent installation of the Jubilee Park Goalposts, which had been ordered in mid-July.

The Chairman asked for clarification on the noticeboards which had not yet been purchased because no suitable sites had been found. The Chairman requested that this item was taken to the next Parks & Public Realm committee.

With reference to the flowerbeds at the Five-Way Junction committee noted that the Rotary Club were happy to continue for the moment, and the Town Clerk had emailed Shropshire Council regarding sponsorship and signage.

30. Request to Purchase Land

The Town Clerk read out Mr Parker's report. The committee noted that Whitchurch Town Council, being only trustees of Jubilee Park, could not sell any land.

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/20/2021 RESOLVED** to obtain quotations from the Council's contractor for both reducing the height of the trees and for complete removal of the trees, noting that the conifers would be cut back regardless. (All in favour).

31. Youth Pod

The committee discussed the youth pod style and possible placement locations.

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/21/2021 RESOLVED** to set up a small Youth Pod Working Party consisting of Cllrs Hall, Haynes and Snell and bring their findings back to the next committee. (All in favour).

32. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

It was noted that the Town Clerk had been chasing Shropshire Council for response on the VAS Signs for Chester Road, Heath Road and Station Road.

33. Wheatsheaf Drive Play Area

The Town Clerk recapped the project background for newer members of the committee.

After a proposal from Cllr Haynes, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

Initialled:

It was **P&PR/22/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the Town Clerk's advice: following receipt of indicative quote in region of £25,000 committee agreed to take this to Full Council to go out to tender.

34. Jubilee Park Contractors' Yard

Committee noted the need to support local voluntary groups including Blackberry Fair and Men in Sheds.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/23/2021 RESOLVED** to agree the shipping container in principle, seeking permission from landowners Shropshire Council, as well as planning consent.

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

It was **P&PR/24/2021 RESOLVED** to ask for a budget from Finance committee for a shipping container and assistance for setting up Men in Sheds, reporting back at the next meeting.

The Clerk to check whether the Town Council can sublet.

35. Alleyway – Mill Street to Jubilee Park

The committee noted that the first part of the path was owned by McCarthy and Stone. The 'dog leg' section to Jubilee Park is not owned by anyone. If the Town Council was to claim the footpath, adverse possession would be needed which can only be obtained through a solicitor. The cost of which, if uncontested would be £2,000 - £3,000. If the claim is contested the costs could reach £10,000. It was also noted that this was quite a complicated process and the Land Registry will only deal with solicitors on such matters. Committee then discussed the issue.

Following a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hall,

It was **P&PR/25/2021 RESOLVED** to take the matter to Full Council to acquire the land with a reasonable conveyance cost.

36. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

The meeting closed at 20:11.

Signed: Date:
Chairman

Initialed: