

Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Zoom

**Councillors**

**Present:**

Cllr Kevin Brookes (C)

Cllr Alex Fuhrmann

Cllr Howard Legg

Cllr Gill Taylor

Cllr Mark Tewkesbury

Cllr Graham Lambert

Cllr Ryan Hope

Cllr Tia Roos

Cllr Ken Whatley

**Officers**

Matt Ryan (Deputy Town Clerk)

Tara Williams (Parks and Open Spaces Manager)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

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| S0073 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Brookes welcomed attendees to the meeting and informed attendees of the passing of Alderman Andy Hutchings. Andy Hutchings was much loved and respected in the community and his loss will be felt by many. The Council sends it condolences to Andy’s family, friends and colleagues. |
| S0074 | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies were approved from Cllrs Northam, Bergman and Harris. Cllr Legg substituted for Cllr Harris. |
| S0075 | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Brookes declared an interest as an allotment holder (Item 9.) |
| S0076 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Councillors agreed by majority that the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 08 July 2020 were a correct record. The minutes will be signed at the first opportunity the Committee has to meet face to face. |
| S0077 | **Councillors Questions**  Cllr Hope informed the Committee that with the removal of the temporary toilets on the Pavilion car park, a significant amount of debris including nails and fixings have been left in the car park. Cllr Hope asked that this was cleared as soon as possible.  Tony Hurley responded that this would be done today or tomorrow morning |
| S0078 | **Public Comments and Questions**  There were no public comments or questions. |
| S0079 | **Town Centre Decorative and Christmas Lighting**  Tony Hurley outlined the report. When the infrastructure comes to the end of its life, WTC can take a view on what it wishes to do regarding replacement. WTC are not entering into any form of ongoing agreement to provide.  Members noted that this was a popular outdoor space and the lighting would enhance the area at Christmas. The BID wish to help improve the area but not take on the running. WTC would be responsible for maintenance and this would be minimal. The expected lifespan is 7 – 10 years.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Brookes  Councillors voted unanimously to:   1. support the progression of the lighting scheme for St Alban Street, in partnership with the Weymouth BID, as set out in the report, within agreed budgets in order to enhance Weymouth town centre, particularly during the Christmas period; 2. agree the allocation of £1,500 from the council’s lighting budget as a contribution towards the cost of installing new decorative lighting in St Alban Street; 3. agree that the Council takes ownership of any new decorative lighting scheme in St Alban Street once installed by the Weymouth BID; 4. instruct officers to progress the selection and installation of decorative Christmas lighting for Trinity Road within existing budgets in consultation with the Tourism, Events, Arts & Festivals working group and the Town Centre Multi-agency Management Board. |
| S0080 | **Highway Street Furniture**  Tony Hurley outlined the report. Cllr Roos left the meeting. There are approximately 100-120 benches and 60 free standing cycle stands. There is no accurate data on exact numbers. The proposal includes the cycle store on Westham bridge. The relocation of the bike store has not been investigated, but officers have looked at more accessible and simpler ways to run it. The agency agreement with Dorset Council (DC) should be signed relatively swiftly following a full audit.  There is no finance coming over from DC for the benches or bike racks. If the Council does not take on the benches and bike racks then DC will not be replacing them. Members stated that the Council needs to ensure it removes abandoned bikes from racks. Members asked that more “Happy To Chat” signs are deployed on new benches.  Councillors asked if the Council would be looking to take on bins from DC. Whilst there are currently no plans officers are exploring the need for the Town Council to contribute to the funding of new bins, their emptying and ongoing maintenance.  Resolved:  **Resolved:**  Councillors voted unanimously to:   1. support the adoption by Weymouth Town Council of public benches, seating and certain bicycle stands/storage as set out in the above report; 2. give delegated authority to officers to sign an agency agreement from Dorset Council for both the transfer of these assets and empower the town council to undertake other activities on the highway in order to improve the public realm. |
| S0081 | **Amendments to Allotment Tenancy Agreement**  Tara Williams outlined the item. Cllr Roos returned to the meeting. Cllr Lambert asked that sensitivity is shown to areas on a plot left fallow to manage soil quality and biodiversity.  The allotments officer has drafted the rules based on previous issues raised by tenants. This agreement will not apply to those allotments run by management committees. Officers are showing flexibility to those plots not cultivated within the lock down period and will continue to show sensitivity towards those shielding. The payment is required from new allotment holders only. Bonfires will be investigated when reports to the office by the public are raised. Members would like to see further detail in the impact assessment on protected characteristics.  **Resolved:**  Councillors agreed unanimously to adopt the new terms and conditions as laid out in Appendix 2 of the report in the agenda. |
| S0082 | **Project Initiation Document – Relocation of WTC Nursery activities to Tumbledown**  Cllr Lambert outlined the report which has come from the Green and Clean Working Group. Relocating the nursery to Tumbledown would save £17,500 on rent and would allow a reduction in the Council’s carbon footprint. Other benefits may be realised but this needs to be scoped out by officers. There are time constraints in that the site development is being planned now and the land management plan is being drafted, we also have a break clause in the lease in April 2022.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Lambert Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Councillors agreed unanimously to the production of the Project plan. |
| S0083 | **Weymouth BID led Christmas Event**  Tony Hurley detailed the report. The BID is asking for 50% funding for this Christmas scheme, which is £20,000. There are likely to be fewer Christmas events happening due to Covid. The funding could be taken from the VE/VJ underspend. A reallocation of this ear marked reserve would need to go to Finance and Governance.  The Tourism, Events, Arts and Festivals Working Group (TEAF) have discussed this proposal. It would be useful in encouraging people to come to the town and move through the town. There were some concerns about allocating this amount of money to a Christmas event and Councillors wondered if DC could fund the scheme. Members also wondered if the BID had applied for grants for this event. Cllr Hope understood that the BID had applied for some funding and so £20,000 was the maximum that would be required.  Members considered whether this was good use of the underspend and whether it would have the same community impacts of the original event that was planned, although the business community were an important part of the community and needed support at this time. Members suggested a wider project to encourage people to put up lights in their homes and gardens to lift the whole area.  **Resolved:**  Councillors agreed by majority   1. to allocate 50% of the costs, up to a maximum of £20,000, for its Christmas lighting projections project as detailed in the report; 2. to refer any recommendation of financial support for the Weymouth BID’s Christmas lighting projections project to the Finance & Governance Committee for consideration. |
| S0084 | **Information Items**  Members thanked Tara Williams and the Parks and Open Spaces team for their hard work this year. The parks and open spaces have been invaluable to residents during lockdown. Tara will bring a report on cemetery fees and the booking service to the next Committee.  Members asked for information on the efficiency and output of the solar panels on the new beach office. The architects estimate that the panels will produce 4% of the Council’s Electric usage. Officers are investigating out of hours provisions for all Council services. Attendants are doing regular checks for people in need during opening hours.  The buildings at Tumbledown remain a concern due to their dilapidation. The buildings are being made safe so that groups can start to use the site. One of DC’s teams is having an awayday at the site to volunteer within Covid guidelines and regulations. Rabbit fencing will be going in to protect food growing areas and donations of tools, fencing and woodchip have been received.  The laser light demonstration has been delayed, however, this is on the forward programme and will be arranged as soon as possible,  Members noted the items  Meeting closed: 20:36 |