



CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee held virtually on Zoom on 09 September 2020 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Desna Allen
Jenny Budgell
Andy Phillips
David Powell
Melody Thompson
Pete Bishop
Teresa Hutton
Nina Phillips
Chris Ruck
Sandie Webb

Officers present: Mark Smith (Chief Executive)
Barry Pirie (Director of Community Services)
Daryl Jones (Business Support Manager)
Heather Rae (Democratic Services Manager)
Lynsey Nichols (Marketing and Communications Manager)
Michael Weeks (Democratic and Civic Officer)
Gillian Ballinger (Finance Manager)
Will Tidmarsh (Head of Environmental Services)
Melissa Barnett (Head of Museum and Heritage Services)
Paul Harvey (Head of Leisure Services)
Julie Hook (Head of Venues)

Also Present: Councillor Richard Bambury
Heather Moore Bee The Change

Public Present: There were 5 members of the public present

In advance of the meeting Councillors received a presentation from a Bee The Change representative regarding how the project may benefit Chippenham.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS There were no written or verbal questions from any member of the public.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ruth Lloyd.

18. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTION

Councillor Jenny Budgell was substituting for Councillor Ruth Lloyd.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

20. **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record and to sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2020.

RESOLVED that

The minutes were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

21. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

i) Councillors were reminded about the upcoming Wiltshire Wildlife Trust engagement evening for Councillors and members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group taking place on the 28 September 2020 at 6pm. All councillors have received a save the date and a zoom link will be circulated shortly by officers. If Councillors are unable to make this date, there are 5 public sessions which they could attend.

ii) The Chairman updated Councillors on the ongoing cleaning of the play areas since the Town Council approved to reopen them. Daily cleaning still takes place between 7.30am and 13.30pm. Staff have been thanked while undertaking this work by members of the public, but there has been little evidence observed by staff of the public cleaning the equipment, advised numbers of children in the park at any one time has been exceeded and social distancing has not been observed. The Town Council is doing all it can to keep its residents safe but residents also need to take responsibility.

22. **PEWSHAM PARK ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to Councillors regarding anti-social behaviour at Pewsham Park. It was highlighted that anti-social behaviour occurs at all play areas managed by the Town Council, but there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour reported at the park in Pewsham.

Councillors Teresa Hutton and Richard Bambury who represented the ward noted concerns from residents regarding the current teen shelter that was in place, and other areas of the park.

Councillor Jenny Budgett enquired if any engagement work had been undertaken with the young people in Pewsham Park, although understood that with the recent restrictions to the COVID19 lockdown, this may not have been possible, but would encourage this engagement.

Councillor David Powell raised a concern that removing the shelter would penalise those young people that use the shelter and do not commit anti-social behaviour

With 8 Councillors in favour and 2 against.

RESOLVED that:

i) That Councillors noted the comments the report and agree that for the benefit for Pewsham Park as a whole the teen shelter remains in situ.

23. **DOGS IN JOHN COLES PARK**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to Councillors regarding having dogs in John Coles Park. Councillors were reminded that at the start of the COVID lockdown in March 2020, Government guidelines stated that all dogs had to remain on leads at all times while being walked by owners in the park, and signage was put up to reflect this. Guidelines have since been relaxed and the appropriate signage was removed, but members of the public had contacted the Town Council expressing their wish that John Coles Park should remain a dog on lead area.

Councillor Melody Thompson spoke on behalf of a resident who could not be in attendance, highlighted that while dogs may be being friendly to other users of the park, could cause concern anxiety especially amongst the younger users of the park.

Councillor Teresa Hutton highlighted that while in the park during the lockdown period and the restrictions were in place, not everyone adhered to the Government guidelines, so how would the Town Council enforce the dogs on leads at all times rule. Agreed that people do use the dog compound area to let their dogs run off the lead but it was unsightly compared to the rest of the park.

Councillor Chris Ruck stated his support for dogs to be on leads in John Coles Park at all times, due to the nature of the park and enquired if there was a law which could be enforced if people refuse to have their dog on a lead.

The Director of Community Services stated that a report regarding enforcement will be brought to the Committee at a future date.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that if Councillors decide that all dogs should remain on leads in the park, then it's advised that this shouldn't be a decision implemented straight away, so the decision can be communicated to members of the public, and allow time for a transition period.

Councillor Melody Thompson acknowledged enforcement may be difficult but if a member of public received a ticket it would make them think twice.

With all in favour it was.

RESOLVED that:

Councillors agreed to change the rules to make John Coles Park a dogs on lead area as a whole at all times.

With 8 Councillors in favour

RESOLVED that:

The dog compound in John Coles Park should be removed.

24. **CCTV UPDATE**

The Business Support Manager presented the report regarding the CCTV, updating Councillors on their previous decisions, the current status of the project and the next steps.

Councillor Pete Bishop enquired if a solution was going to be presented that covers Monkton Park, because he is aware of anti-social behaviour and possible drug use on particular park bench in the park.

The Business Support Manager confirmed currently there is no solution to Monkton Park yet but would be continued to be investigated, for example it could be covered by a mobile camera, but a report will be brought back to the committee when a solution was found.

Councillor Teresa Hutton acknowledged as Mayor, she had seen the updated control room, and confirmed that the updated cameras are very clear, and a mobile option needs to be considered.

The Chairman suggested that a working party to be convened to consider future options. The Chief Executive noted that officer reports on the control room and the contract could go to a future meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee and a working party could be constituted to discuss the wider issues, relating to increased camera coverage and a different operating model, if required at a later date, which the Chairman agreed.

With all in favour

RESOLVED that:

- i) Councillors noted the significant progress made to date.
- ii) That consideration is given to relocating the control room to another site which could be made a comfortable work place whereby a volunteer scheme could be introduced to assist in the monitoring of CCTV coverage.
- iii) That consideration is given to the existing Monitoring Contract which is in place until November 2021 and will need to be reviewed before the budget is set for 2021/22.

25. **INSTALLATION OF A BOREHOLE AT STANLEY PARK SPORTS GROUND**

The Head of Leisure Services presented the report to Councillors concerning the forthcoming installation of a borehole at Stanley Parks Sports Ground. The

installation is in response to a year on year increase in the cost of water supply for the associated pitches at the sports ground. The decision to proceed with the installation was made under delegated authority and works should begin in October. Figures show that after two and half years the installation costs should be paid back compared to paying a water charge, after which water will be free.

Councillor Andy Philips raised a concern that residents may not see this as a necessary purchase due to the ongoing COVID crisis. He was not against the project, just the timing.

The Chairman stated that residents want the Town Council to be investing in Green incentives.

RESOLVED that:

Councillors noted the report.

26. CHIPPENHAM MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 2019-20

The Head of Museum and Heritage Services presented the report to Councillors, highlighting that the museum is required to supply an annual report and statistics to its governing body which further feed into Government statistics. It was noted that overall visitor numbers to the Museum had increased.

The Chairman on behalf of all Councillors thanked the team at the Museum for their impressive annual report.

RESOLVED that:

Councillors noted the report.

27. REVIEW OF CHIPPENHAM MUSEUM ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN

The Head of Museum and Heritage Services presented the report to Councillors regarding the museum activities during the lockdown period. The museum had utilised social media and produced online activities. Time was taken to organise an online shop, where local purchases were hand delivered to residents. The museum had now reopened, and groups are able to visit the museum by booking online time slots. The Head of Museum and Heritage Services was pleased to announce that families were coming back to visit the museum.

RESOLVED that:

Councillors noted the report.

28. ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION

That the decision regarding the changes dogs on leads at all times in John Coles Park and the Bee the Change presentation should be discussed with the Youth Council.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 November 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

DRAFT