



BRADNINCH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES

The Guildhall
Bradninch
Exeter, Devon

Meeting of the Bradninch Town Council Recreation and Amenities Committee
Wednesday 20th September 2023, starting at Charwell Wetlands, 6.45pm

Present: Cllr S Birley (Chairman), Cllr S Crawford, Cllr I Wild. **In attendance:** Mrs A Marshall, Clerk.
The minutes of the May committee meeting and the July property inspection had been signed off by full Council.

R/23/13 Public Open Session: None.

R/23/14 Apologies: Cllrs Ottery and Glendinning, childcare. Cllrs M Taylor and L Taylor, work.

R/23/15 Declarations of Interest relating to items on this agenda: None.

R/23/16 Annual inspection of the Charwell Wetlands: It was agreed that the Wetlands area was, disappointingly, looking very overgrown and unkept currently and so it was RESOLVED to bring this to the attention of full Council at the October meeting. The Clerk would make enquiries of the local Wetlands Group in order to gain information on any existing and future plans. It was suggested that the area could be cleared, which would involve funding, or handed back to the Duchy of Cornwall if no local interest to manage the area could be raised. The matter of safety, regarding the pond, and whether any signage or a life ring was required would be investigated.

R/23/17 Annual inspection of West End Hall: It was agreed that the hall was looking in good order, both internally and externally. The outstanding issue of the agreed pointing work at the back of the hall was considered and it was agreed to continue trying to obtain quotes for the work. It was RESOLVED that quotes to render the wall, as well as repoint it, and to slab the top step should be obtained. The repointing appeared to be needed from the ground up to a meter high along the whole wall with attention also required on the chimney breast and under the windows.
It was noted that both sun shields, which had been fixed to the brick wall, were broken and that one fixing had appeared to have pulled part of a brick from the wall.
The back gate was in need of attention as it had dropped slightly and so the middle bolt was not catching. It was RESOLVED to ask Cllr Lawson if he would be able to fix this.

R/23/18 Annual inspection of the thatched bus shelter: It was agreed that the shelter appeared to be in good order. It was noted that cigarette butts could often found on the floor in the shelter.

R/23/19 Updates since the last Committee meeting and the July property inspection:

- a) New roundabout:** The installation at the Recreation Ground was due to take place mid-October. It was noted that the old roundabout appears to be working better at the moment but it was agreed to stick to the resolution made by full Council to continue with the replacement.
- b) Solar lights:** Following a discussion on the best way to fit the solar lights to the Recreation Ground fencing, Cllr Birley volunteered to do the work.
- c) Recycling bin:** Mid Devon District Council had confirmed that the bin would be installed at the Townlands Play Park within the next few days. It was agreed that it should replace the existing bin which MDDC would be asked to remove from site. The invoice, as long as per quote, would be paid once received as this had already been agreed by full Council.
- d) Dead tree at the Recreation Ground:** An update was pending from the Tree Warden.

- e) **Broken games top table:** It was noted that the broken Perspex had been removed by the Caretaker leaving a slatted wooden table top which was deemed safe.
- f) **Broken twisting seat:** A quote was pending to fix the equipment from Yates Playgrounds.
- g) **Broken pogo-pole spinner:** It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from HAGS for the new part at a cost of £95 plus £15 delivery plus VAT.
- h) **Basket swing surfacing:** Yates Playgrounds quote to fix the surfacing for £60 had been accepted.
- i) **Tractor springy:** A quote was pending to fix the springy from Yates Playgrounds.

R/23/20 S106 spending:

a) Townland's Play Park – the new picnic tables and benches had been delivered and had been paid for by S106 funding. Cllr Birley would oversee installation as soon as possible and the sites had been agreed. It was RESOLVED to postpone any further S106 spending considerations for now.

b) Recreation Ground – £3,294.97 S106 funding had been received, so far, towards the new roundabout and further funding was expected to be transferred from the Townlands Play Park S106 'pot' pending MDDC agreement. External grant funding would be called upon to bridge any shortfalls once this amount was known. It was RESOLVED to postpone any further S106 spending considerations for now. Cllr Birley volunteered to oversee the roundabout installation.

R/23/21 Cigarette butt bins for bus stops: It was RESOLVED to postpone this item until Cllr Mottram could provide more background and so that consideration could be given to costs and who would empty any bins.

R/23/22 Part 2: It was RESOLVED to enter into private session due to the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, and the Local Government Act 1972, any press and public (none present) would be asked to leave the meeting -

a) Handyperson: Should the Council decide to employ a Handyperson, it was RESOLVED that duties that could be considered would be the checking of grit bins and bus stops, removing graffiti from around the town, checking of Council owned assets such as benches. These suggestions would be fed back to the Finance and Staffing Committee as requested. The Clerk would try to obtain examples of Contracts from other Councils for information.

R/23/23 Councillor/Clerk comments (no decision making):

a) Benches: A resident had suggested that all Council owned benches around the town should be added to the annual property inspection. It was agreed to add this matter to the next agenda.

b) Caretaker holiday: Cllr Birley had been covering the Caretakers daily duties this week and reported back to those present. As graffiti was an ongoing issue on play equipment and in bus stops, some of it offensive, it was suggested that small cans of multi coloured spray paint be purchased to spray over graffiti quickly. Cllr Birley volunteered to look into this.

c) Painting of the slide and goal posts: It was noted that full Council had RESOLVED to accept a quote to paint the slide and goal posts at the Recreation Ground and to have the roof of the wooden shelter treated with anti-graffiti paint. The work should be completed within the next month, weather permitting.

d) Vandalism: Cllr Crawford reported that a youth had been seen trying to set fire to wooden equipment at the Recreation Ground and asked for anything like this to be reported to the Police by residents.

e) Churchyard grit bin: It was confirmed that the agreed new grit bin had been delivered and paid for, it would be put in place by Cllr Wild and the Clerk shortly.

R/23/24 Date of the next meeting: Scheduled for 24th January 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm