



## HAYLE TOWN COUNCIL

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THURSDAY 24 JULY 2014**

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre, 58 Queensway, Hayle on Thursday 24 July 2014 at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors G Coad, D Cocks, N Farrar, H Lyons and B Mims

Also present Councillor B Capper

Town Clerk Eleanor Giggal

**The meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

### **A26 TO ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR 2014/15**

**It was resolved** to elect Councillor N Farrar as Chairman and Councillor G Coad as Vice-Chairman for the civic year 2014-2015.

Councillor Farrar thanked the Committee and took the Chair.

### **A27 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received from Committee Members however Councillor Rance had sent apologies as a regular non-voting attendee.

### **A28 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

There were none.

### **A29 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING 27 MARCH 2014**

**It was resolved** that the minutes of the Amenities Committee 27 March 2014 be taken as a true and correct record, the Chairman signing each page before placing them in the record book.

### **A30 COMMUNITY CENTRE & FRANK JOHNS CENTRE**

- a) To consider the Frank Johns Centre valuation report produced by Smiths Gore (on behalf of HTC and CC) and to determine the next course of action, if any

Members considered whether or not the discussion on this matter should take place in closed session bearing in mind that the valuation report had been marked private and confidential. Members agreed that as the building was in public ownership there was no need to exclude the press or public.

**It was resolved** to recommend to Full Council that Hayle Town Council remains minded to try to purchase the building subject to successfully obtaining a mortgage from the Public Works Loans Board, which may prove difficult due to the 'long term' conditions contained in the current agreement relating to letting. Hayle Town Council will only be offering a sum in the region of £100,000 due to it only being of limited use and value to the Town Council and taking into account the abysmal state of repair.

b) Tenants and users update

The Clerk reported that the Community Centre had benefitted from a small increase in regular and casual bookings. The lease with the District Nurses had still not been finalised but it was anticipated that a new lease for 5 years to include the existing rooms and the additional suite on the first floor would be completed shortly.

The Clerk also confirmed that a ground floor section of the Frank Johns Centre had been let on a 6 month contract, June to November 2014 inclusive, to Asda for use as a recruitment centre for the new store.

c) Maintenance update

It was reported that a) a large tree to the rear of building had been cut down as a result of storm damage in the early part of the year and a potential danger to the houses situated beyond it, b) the Clerk will have to re-tender for the soffits and fascias to be replaced as the previous contract winner was not in a position to complete the work and c) some minor alterations, such as a sink being installed, had been undertaken in preparation for the District Nurses taking on the rooms on the first floor.

There was a general discussion surrounding how much work was contracted out to various trades' persons and it was suggested that the Council should explore the possibility of employing a suitably qualified maintenance person, particularly in view of the fact that it is now managing additional facilities and taking on devolved services.

**It was resolved** that the matter of employing a maintenance person is taken to a future Resource Committee meeting.

### **A31 SWIMMING POOL**

a) General Season, Staffing and Maintenance update

The Clerk was pleased to inform the meeting that to date the swimming pool was running smoothly and was currently taking more money than had been predicted. She thought this was largely due to the appointment of a full time pool Manager, Nigel Back, a good team of lifeguards and a great start to the season weather wise.

The Clerk reassured Members that although, due to the appointment of a manager, the staffing budget was running above the estimate it was very likely that this would be offset by increased income. This newly created role has also addressed the issue of the already busy administration office endeavouring to manage the facility at arms length.

The Clerk also confirmed that the £5,000 (staged withdrawal of grant aid) owed by Cornwall Council from previous years had now been received, with thanks to Councillor Coombe and Pollard.

There had been no incidents in terms of accidents, vandalism or general misbehaviour at the pool.

**It was resolved** to NOTE all of this information.

### **A32 CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS**

#### a) General Update

There was no news to report in relation to the cemetery.

It was reported that the allotments were now all let, following a few plot holders relinquishing at the time of renewal and a couple of others being asked to leave due to them not being maintained and/or utilised.

The Clerk advised that there had been some disputes between neighbouring plot holders and there had been reports of allotment holders trespassing on to other plots. The Clerk had written to all plot holders and it seems that these issues have been resolved.

NOTED.

### **A33 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

#### a) Update regarding the management of the four facilities

Members were told that the actual contract with CORMAC for the cleaning and maintenance of the facilities continued to run smoothly. It was noted that currently the Town Council was only responsible for three sites as the toilet block on the Commercial Road was being relocated due to the Fire Station works. The lease, between Cornwall Council and Hayle Town Council, for the facility would be redrafted once the new block was complete.

The Clerk explained that there had been quite a number of incidents of vandalism, broken equipment and continued problems with the facilities at the Recreation Ground being blocked, backing up and then requiring rodding. The Clerk said that she was concerned that these costs were not budgeted for and were way and above the grant money supplied.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk obtains estimates to address the plumbing and drainage issues at the Recreation Ground toilets.

**It was resolved** that all acts of vandalism be reported to the Police and a log to be kept. The Clerk to also ask the CORMAC team to report any incidents to the Police as well, particularly outside of Hayle Town Council office hours.

### **A34 OTHER FACILITIES**

#### a) Update on Sunday closure of King George V Memorial Walk

There had been no further complaints however it was reported that some local residents continue to flout the law and drive along the Walk on Sundays. It was recognised that there was little that could be done to prevent this, Police action is required.

- b) To consider options for the development of the former Hawkin's Motors Site

**It was resolved** that, as a minimum, practical, low cost option, the area once completed should be tarmacked, raised plant beds and benches should be installed and the RSPB and Natural England be invited to erect information boards.

**It was also resolved** to write to Cornwall Council and that the former toilet block adjacent to the Hawkins's site be transferred to Hayle Town Council.

- c) Amenity Sites Transfer Update

The Clerk advised that there had been no recent communication relating to the transfer of the amenity sites. Members expressed concern that recent letters from the Clerk and individual Members regarding the poor and potentially dangerous condition of The Millponds and The Plantation, in particular, had seemingly been ignored by Cornwall Council officers. Information relating to the current level of service and costs had also been requested but not supplied.

**It was resolved** to withhold the £100,000 contribution to the maintenance of the sites until the breakdown of costs and services is provided and accepted.

#### **A35 TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting would take place on 25 September 2014 in the Assembly Room at Hayle Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.