



Minutes of the Amenities Committee held in the W101 Bridgwater Room on Thursday 25 July 2024 at 10:00

Present:

Councillors, Mander (Chair), Lilley, Loveridge, Pearce, Redman, and Slocombe.

David Mears, CEO and Town Clerk, Scott Mason, Director of Amenities, Lorna Williams, Facilities Manager, Matt Mills, Environmental Manager, and Natasha Williams, PA to Director of Amenities. There were no members of the press or public present.

AMC2024/8 To receive apologies for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Cllr Solomon.

AMC2024/9 Declarations of Interests

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

RESOLVED: No declarations of interest were received.

AMC2024/10 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 6 June 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 6 June 2024 be signed as a correct record.

AMC2024/11 To receive and note the report from the Director of Amenities and to agree:

To delegate authority to the Director of Amenities to create a schedule of rates for public open space hire enquiries in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee and Vice Chair.

Cllr Slocombe asked whether regular Hirers of Bridgwater Town Council's Open Spaces will be given enough notice of any change in charges. The Town Clerk confirmed that they will be notified of all changes.

Cllr Redman asked if the site located at Ash Close has been identified as requiring strengthening works, in order to prevent the entry and occupation of GRT Communities. The Amenities Director confirmed that it has been added to the list of sites.



Cllr Redman proposed an amendment to the Recommendation: To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to increase Security of Open Spaces, following a detailed report being submitted to the Amenities Committee which will confirm the measures and costs involved.

RESOLVED: To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to increase Security of Open Spaces, following a report being submitted to the Amenities Committee which will confirm the measures and costs involved and to delegate authority to the Director of Amenities to establish a Schedule of Rates in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair.

AMC2024/12 To receive and note the report from the Environmental Manager.

Cllr Redman wanted to thank all Operatives for their hard work and the way all initial problems and challenges have been dealt with since Bridgwater Town Council have taken over responsibility for grass cutting.

Cllr Redman asked how Bridgwater Town Council would be dealing with weed killing and the growth that is evident around Bridgwater. The Amenities Director advised that following a tender process, a preferred supplier has been found. Works are expected to start on the Highways within the next couple of weeks. The Town Clerk added that the works would be under review and alternative methods will be investigated for next year.

RESOLVED: To note the report from the Environmental Manager.

AMC2024/13 To receive and note the report from the Town Hall and Arts Centre Manager.

RESOLVED: To note the report from the Town Hall and Arts Centre Manager.

AMC2024/14 To receive and note the report from the Facilities Manager.

RESOLVED: To note the report from the Facilities Manager.

AMC2024/15 To note the year to date budget as of 30 June 2024

RESOLVED: To note the Year to Date Budget for the Amenities Directorate as of 30 June 2024.

AMC2024/16 To Resolve To Exclude the Press and Public

and to agree that agenda item AMC2024/17 inclusive be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED: To Exclude the Press and Public.



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AMC2024/17 Somerset Council Asset freehold sale offer to Bridgwater Town Council

RESOLVED: Somerset Council approached Bridgwater Town Council regarding the sale of Cornhill. It was agreed to review in a year if the property is still available.

The Chairman closed the meeting at **11:30**

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Signed.....

Dated.....