



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S AMENITIES AREAS COMMITTEE HELD AT THE BRIDEWELL, THE BURY, RG29 1NB ON TUESDAY 20th AUGUST 2024 at 9.05pm

Present: Cllrs D Sanger (chair), S Bell, A McFarlane, P Verdon, C Seabrook and M Tate.
In attendance: Andrea Mann (Parish Clerk) and Bridie Tate (Deputy Clerk).

AA17/24 To receive apologies for absence
None.

AA18/24 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda
None.

AA19/24 Approval of Minutes
RESOLVED
The minutes of the Amenities Areas Committee meeting held on 20th May 2024 (AA01-16/24) were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
RESOLVED
(Proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

AA20/24 Chairs Announcements
None.

AA21/24 Public Session
There were no members of the public present.

AA22/24 Meeting Action Points
Progress on the meeting action points list were noted, as presented with the agenda.

AA23/24 Amenities contract decisions take under the Clerk's delegated authority
Noted, as presented with the agenda.

AA24/24 To consider new contract awards
RESOLVED
The following proposed contract awards were agreed:
i) Removal of zip wire posts at the Recreation Ground – a contract in the value of £825 was awarded to Premier Grounds. Officers were asked to include an article in the Autumn newsletter to explain to residents why the decision to remove the zip wire had been made.
ii) Repair to heating valves in The Bridewell – a contract in the value of £564.80 was awarded to Servio Building Services Maintenance.
iii) Replace water heating in the ground floor kitchen at The Bridewell – it was agreed not to proceed at the current time.
RESOLVED
(Proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Seabrook, all in favour).

AA25/24 Annual play inspection reports
Members noted the matters raised in the annual independent play inspections and actions taken. Members further noted a need to build up a robust play area replacement fund and agreed to consider this again in October as part of the budget setting process.



AA26/24

Accessible public toilet provision in Odiham

Members reviewed concept showing how an accessible toilet cubicle could be accommodated in the King St public toilets and considered whether the project should be progressed.

RESOLVED

- i) The project was agreed in principle with a preference for the second design.
- ii) The office was asked to arrange for proper plans to be produced on the basis that option 2 provides access for mobility scooters as well as wheelchairs.
- ii) To start research funding.

(Proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

AA27/24

Structural surveys

Structural survey reports for Chapel Cottage, North Chapel, South Chapel and the Parish Room were reviewed, as presented with the agenda.

It was noted that members were pleased with the report and findings as no significant matters of concern had been highlighted.

AA28/24

Memorabilia on plots

Following a recent attempt to reduce unauthorised memorabilia on burial plots, members considered whether there was a better way of implementing the cemetery rules for grounds maintenance purposes which was sympathetic to families wishing to put memorabilia on a plot. It was noted that it was a difficult balancing act because people viewed the memorabilia differently but it was essential that the grounds contractor had free access for grounds maintenance.

Cllr Verdon reported on a recent meeting with a local resident where the resident explained that the current Cemetery Rules weren't in place when memorabilia was attached to some of the older plots. The resident also questioned the reason for removing memorabilia from plots which had permanent curb edgings?

Following debate, it was

RESOLVED

- i) To review the Cemetery Rules again to try and find a simple way of differentiating between the older and newer parts of the cemetery to aid implementation of the rules for the newer plots.
- ii) Members agreed that improved site signage was required and the existing noticeboard should be replaced. The Clerk would research and forward options to members by email to agree design and location.

Members noted that a site visit was scheduled in September with the grounds contractor when further improvements could be suggested.

AA29/24

Maintenance of scrubland surrounding allotments site

Members were asked to consider the best method of maintaining land bordering the Hook Rd allotment site in order to reduce weeds and to deter rats. The original site layout showed the area was meant to be grassed and the grounds maintenance specification allowed for strimming. However, the area had become very overgrown



and contractor felt the area was too narrow for strimming and recommended weed killer instead.

Following debate, it was agreed that the rat sightings were not associated with this scrubland, that OPC shouldn't use pesticides and the contractor should continue strimming the area twice a year as per the contract. Plot holders were welcome to tend to the area behind their plot.

AA30/24 Date of the next meeting
19th November 2024.

AA31/24 To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press to consider confidential contractual matters which meet the criteria of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Part 1
RESOLVED
(Proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

AA32/24 Memorial Application
RESOLVED
OPC raises no objection to the photos on the headstone but request that the larger photo be reduced by 50%.
(Proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

Being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed..... Date.....