

**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of Camborne Town Council held in The Council Chamber, Passmore Edwards Building, The Cross, Cross Street, Camborne, TR14 8HA on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

PRESENT:

<b>Councillor D Wilkins</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Councillor P Mills</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Councillor J Ball</b>	
<b>Councillor V Dalley</b>	
<b>Councillor Z Fox</b>	<b>(ex officio)</b>
<b>Councillor N Miles</b>	
<b>Councillor J Morgan</b>	
<b>Councillor R Tal-E-Bot</b>	
<b>Councillor R Weatherburn</b>	

IN ATTENDANCE:

**David Garwood, Amenities & Projects Officer; Nick George, Amenities Manager and Sally Williams, Committee Support Officer.**

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**A.4398 SAFETY PROCEDURES**

The Chairman explained the safety procedures to all present.

**A.4399 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024**

**A.4399.2 RESOLVED: that nominations were received and that Councillor Wilkins was elected as Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/2024**

Proposed by Councillor J Ball  
Seconded by Councillor Z Fox

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4400 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

**A.4400.2 RESOLVED: that the apologies from Councillor Cosgrove for non-attendance of the meeting of the Amenities Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were received**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor P Mills

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4401 MEMBERS TO DECLARE DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (INCLUDING THE DETAILS THEREOF) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA INCLUDING ANY GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25**

Councillors Z Fox and R Tal-E-Bot declared interests in Agenda Item 11. They would leave the room when that Agenda Item was debated and voted upon.

**A.4402 TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUEST(S) FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no written requests for dispensations.

**A.4403 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**A.4404 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024**

**A.4404.2 RESOLVED: that nominations were received and that Councillor Mills was elected as Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the municipal year 2023/2024**

Proposed by Councillor J Ball  
Seconded by Councillor V Dalley

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4405 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AND THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THEM**

**A.4405.2 RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were received, approved, and signed by the Chairman**

Proposed by Councillor J Ball  
Seconded by Councillor P Mills

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously by all those entitled to vote.

**A.4406 MATTERS ARISING, FOR INFORMATION ONLY, WHERE NOT INCLUDED BELOW**

Councillor Fox enquired whether the purchases that had been agreed at the last Amenities meeting had been made. The Amenities Manager confirmed that this had happened.

Councillor Mills enquired whether the Evac Chair training had been booked. The Amenities Manager confirmed that the Safety Training and Maintenance package had been paid for and that training would be booked in due course.

**A.4407 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SUBJECT TO STANDING ORDER 3E MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE PERMITTED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS AND GIVE EVIDENCE IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF FIFTEEN MINUTES)**

There were no members of the public present.

Councillors Fox and Tal-E-Bot left the room at 6.35pm.

**A.4408 TO RECEIVE RFO GRANT SUMMARY, CHECKLISTS AND GRANT APPLICATION FROM:**

- i) MOVYANS SKOLYOW MEYTHRIN – NURSERY SCHOOLS MOVEMENT CIC**

**AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE PAYMENT**

Councillors discussed the grant application and it was generally felt that the prospect of teaching the Cornish Language at Nursery level was a fantastic idea. One Councillor queried whether the application was for growing plants or for learning the language. It was explained that the growing of plants and the use of the gardening tools would be used to facilitate the learning of the language. Another Councillor explained that the whole community would be encouraged to participate in the language sessions as well.

**A.4408.2 RESOLVED: that a grant of £300 be awarded to Movyans Skolyow Meythrin – Nursery Schools Movement CIC, under the General Power Competence was approved; and the associated expenditure from the Community Grants and Donations Budget (code 160/4930) was authorised**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor J Ball

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.  
Councillors Fox and Tal-E-Bot returned to the room at 6.39pm.

**A.4409 TO RECEIVE CAMBORNE TOWN COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING AGREEMENT 2023-2024 FROM CORNWALL COUNCIL AND AGREE ACION**

Councillors discussed the Grass Cutting Agreement which was the same as previous years. Some Councillors wondered whether wildflower seeds could be scattered at the same time.

The Amenities Manager explained that growing wildflowers would not be that simple and would require a lot of preparation work. He suggested that just regular cutting as per the contract would look better. There was also some confusion about whether verges were being left but that appeared to depend upon who was doing the cutting as there were a variety of companies cutting various areas of the town. It was agreed that the Amenities Team would just cut as per the contract.

**A.4409.2**

**RESOLVED: that the Camborne Town Council Grass Cutting Agreement 2023-2024 from Cornwall Council, was received and approved**

Proposed by Councillor V Dalley  
Seconded by Councillor P Mills

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4410**

**TO RECEIVE A REQUEST FROM BROOKS ESTATES LTD REGARDING THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS BY CAMBORNE TOWN COUNCIL FOR HIDDENLEY PARK, AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

One Councillor explained that there was a problem with dog waste and litter in this area, but it was recognised that placing bins was only half the solution. The issue would be with getting them collected. Another Councillor explained that due to the current Cornwall Council contract with Biffa, if additional bins were to be placed in situ the whole contract would need to be renegotiated. That contract had another three years to run and so it would be impractical to consider this proposal until the current contract had run its course.

There was some discussion about the Brooks Estates Ltd suggestion that a service charge on the Hiddenley Park Residents might help to pay for this service but this would be expensive and would mean that residents were paying twice.

**A.4410.2**

**RESOLVED: that a request from Brooks Estates Ltd regarding the provision and maintenance of litter and dog waste bins by Camborne Town Council for Hiddenley Park was received and that the request be declined at present and deferred until the next Biffa contract was negotiated with Cornwall Council, was approved**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor J Ball

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4411**

**TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION REGARDING 'OPEN SPACES AND PATHS: A NEW GUIDE TO PROTECTION' FROM THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY AND AGREE ACTION**

**A.4411.2**

**RESOLVED: that notification regarding 'Open Spaces and Paths: A New Guide to Protection' was received**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor Z Fox

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4412**

**TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE AMENITIES MANAGER REGARDING SPEED AWARENESS SIGNS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS AND AGREE ACTION**

The Amenities Manager explained that speed awareness sites have now been agreed and the signs would be in situ within the next two weeks. There are also another two sites being agreed as the signs need to be moved regularly and this would accommodate that.

**A.4412.2**

**RESOLVED: that a verbal update from the Amenities Manager regarding Speed Awareness Signs, was received**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor V Dalley

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4413**

**TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE AMENITIES MANAGER REGARDING THE WEEDING PROGRAMME AND AGREE ACTION**

The Amenities Manager gave Councillors a timeline breakdown of the Amenity Team's street weeding hours and costs. He explained that a linear mile of street weeding took 110 man hours and used 60 litres of vehicle fuel. The full team had been hand weeding with an initial focus on high traffic areas but the regrowth had appeared within two weeks. Once the Foam Stream weeding had begun, a linear mile took slightly less man hours, but associated costs made it more expensive per linear mile. He explained some of the potential issues with both methods of weeding in some detail.

Some Councillors felt that the cost, in money and manpower, were excessive. It was suggested that, with the streets looking so bad with weeds, that the use of weedkiller should be considered. This would enable the team to get on top of the weeds which could then be managed with more sustainable methods. The Deputy Proper Officer agreed that, following extensive research when the weeding scheme was first proposed, a mixed regime would probably be most effective.

The Amenities Manager also explained that, if this method was used, the team would use a chemical drop applicator rather than spraying; this would be faster and there would be less manual handling issues for the team.

**A.4413.2**

**RESOLVED: that a verbal update from the Amenities Manager regarding the weeding programme was received and that the team move to using a weedkiller initially, followed by maintenance with the foam system, alongside an educational campaign using social media, was approved**

Proposed by Councillor J Ball  
Seconded by Councillor V Dalley

On a vote being taken the matter was approved by a majority.

Councillor Mills wished it to be noted that she was objecting due to the use of glyphosate.

**A.4414**

**TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE AMENITIES MANAGER REGARDING 'TREES FOR STREETS', AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

The Amenities Manager explained that he had been speaking with people from Cornwall Council about this initiative which was part of the Forest for Cornwall Scheme. The scheme initially wanted to plant trees on the town's verges which had not really been possible. However, he had suggested that they plant in some of Camborne Town Council's green spaces instead. He felt that the planting scheme looked sensible and agreed to forward the planting scheme to Councillors.

**A.4414.2**

**RESOLVED: that a verbal update from the Amenities Manager regarding 'Trees for Streets' was received**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor J Ball

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4415**

**TO RECEIVE THE ROSPA INSPECTIONS FOR 2023, AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

The Amenities Manager explained that the Amenities Team had begun working on the recommendations from the Inspection Reports; with the red advisories being prioritised.

**A.4415.2**

**RESOLVED: that the ROSPA Inspections for 2023 were received**

Proposed by Councillor D Wilkins  
Seconded by Councillor Z Fox

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4416 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN INFORMATION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND AGREE ACTION**

**A.4416.2 RESOLVED: that written information regarding Committee Membership was received and noted**

Proposed by Councillor Z Fox  
Seconded by Councillor P Mills

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4417 THAT THE COUNCIL RESOLVES, UNDER THE 1960 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED**

**A.4417.2 RESOLVED: that the press and public were excluded due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed**

Proposed by Councillor V Dalley  
Seconded by Councillor D Wilkins

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4418 TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FOR A HABITAT AND NATURE RECOVERY ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN CAMBORNE, AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

A Councillor asked for clarity about which areas would form part of the assessment and the Deputy Proper Officer explained that all Camborne Town Council's green spaces would be included.

**A.4418.2 RESOLVED: that a quote for a Habitat and Nature Recovery Ecological Assessment of the public open spaces in Camborne was received, the quote was accepted and approved, and the expenditure was authorised**

Proposed by Councillor Z Fox  
Seconded by Councillor D Wilkins

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

**A.4419 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN REPORT REGARDING THE ANNUAL WATER SAMPLING AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FOR THE TOWN'S FOUNTAIN, AGREE ACTION AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

**A.4419.2**

**RESOLVED: that a written report regarding the annual water sampling and equipment maintenance for the Town's fountain was received and that Option 1, to use Reef Water Solutions Ltd, was approved with expenditure from Cost Code 320/5100 authorised**

Proposed by Councillor Z Fox  
Seconded by Councillor D Wilkins

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.....

DATE .....