

Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee
held on Thursday 24 January 2019 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Benham, Cllr Bowden, Cllr de Renzy-Martin, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy, and Cllr Nuttall (Chair) and Cllr Westcott

In attendance: Jo Grellier (Administration Support Officer) – In the absence of the Town Clerk

19/86B To receive apologies for absence: No apologies given.

19/87B To receive Declarations of Interest: None at this point

19/88B Watchet Flood Plan: Cllr Nuttall gave a verbal report to members as the representative on the West Somerset Flood group, the main points raised:

- An idea to set up a new website through 'OpenDoor' Internet Services. Members were asked to go back to their respective organisations to test their willingness to donate something in the region of £5.00 per annum each to cover the basic costs of hosting and domain registration.
- It emerged from group discussion that several areas have received considerable assistance for their Flood Groups from an organisation known as 'CRiSP'. It was suggested that 'CRiSP' are very amenable to applications from Flood Warden Groups in providing the necessary PPI and ancillary equipment for marking out hazardous areas etc. Cllr Nuttall commented that he had been ~~was~~ informed that many areas had benefitted by the provision of high-vis vests, market tape, signage etc. Cllr Nuttall concluded that this should be of interest to Watchet's own Flood Warden Group.

Cllr Nuttall recommended that Watchet Town Council considers a grant of £5.00 per annum to assist with the costs of providing a WSFG.

Cllr Irven proposed that ***'as the costs were low at just £5.00 per annum to cover the cost of hosting and domain registration for the new website that the Committee accept the recommendation'***. Seconded by Cllr Benham. Carried.

18/89B Wild Flower Project:

This matter was deferred at the December meeting to ensure members had the opportunity to observe the paperwork presented:

(i) **As the pilot period is due to expire – discuss its future**

Paperwork circulated at the December meeting for members to consider the following:

- The current area covered by the Scheme, with reference to the concerns raised by users of the Car Park concerning the condition of the whole bank and the presence of ticks
- Whether to renew permission for the scheme to continue for a further 12 month.

A brief discussion ensued.

Cllr Irven commented that Watchet Town Council need to define the area managed by the Conservation Society via a Service Level Agreement which clearly defines the areas managed by Watchet Town Council ground staff and by the Conservation Society's 'Wild Flower Project'. A brief discussion ensued where Cllr Nuttall proposed that ***'Watchet Town Council agree to a further 12 months, following the arrangement of Service Level Agreement clearly defining the areas of responsibility, and review on an annual basis'***. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried

(ii) **Formal request to erect a sign at the area explaining the project:**

A formal request was received from the Conservation Society to erect a sign at the area explaining the project – Design pack tabled at the meeting.

After a brief discussion Cllr Westcott proposed that ***'the font of the three organisations should be the same size and all either higher or lower case. Also, the sign should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the condition is in good repair'***. Seconded by Cllr Benham. Carried.

19/90B West Street Car Park:

(i) Installation of new machine with fob entry - Update

A verbal report was given by the Administration Support Officer to update Members on the progress to the installation of the new Fob entry system. It was advised that an insurance claim

had been successful for the vandalised Swipe machine and after the deduction of £250.00 excess fee, the sum of £501.97 was banked.

Further updates will be given in the February meeting.

(ii) Request by an allotment holder tenant for permission to plant several trees
A request to plant 5 dwarf fruit trees was discussed by members. Cllr Irven proposed ***‘that this request is approved subject to the trees being planted in a suitable location, not to infringe on the borders or adjacent plots and the trees must be of dwarf variety’***. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

19/91B Replacement Lighting:

The Administration Support Officer reported the following:

Watchet Town Council received an email from Western Power Distribution on 3 December 2018 to inform Council that during a scheme to replace all the poles and renew the wire on the Married Quarters in Doniford, 2 of the street lights on Alamein Avenue were damaged beyond repair.

As Watchet Town Council is responsible for the streetlights on the Doniford Estate, the Admin Support Officer contacted SSE to gain a quotation on replacing the two lights, and the following quotation was provided:

Replacement of street light 6 o/s 20 Alamein Avenue and associated works	£584.79 (ex. VAT)
Provide new mains feed between streetlight 6 and overhead mains arrangement	£370.49 (ex. VAT)
Replacement of street light 19 o/s 16 Normandy Avenue and associated works	£526.62 (ex. VAT)
Total	£1481.90 (ex. VAT)

The Admin Support Officer contacted the Overhead Line Surveyor at WPD and discussed the possibility of a contribution towards the cost of the replacements and associated works, as the street lights fell apart during the pole replacement Scheme (It was advised that this was due to them being rusted and in ill repair).

On 16 January 2019 WPD confirmed that they were willing to pay the full balance of **£1481.90** in goodwill. WPD advised that the street lighting on the whole estate will need to be reviewed as reports following the pole replacement scheme were that almost all lights were in poor condition. The Admin Support Officer has requested from WPD a lighting assessment report outlining how many lights will need replacing in the next 5 years but it should be noted that Watchet Town Council are responsible for a further 26 street lights on this estate.

After discussion Cllr Westcott proposed that ***‘a letter of thanks should be sent from Watchet Town Council to WPD following their kind contribution and a 5 year replacement lighting plan needs to be drafted in line with an earmarked fund allocation from Reserves to replace the remaining lights over the next 5 years’***. Seconded by Cllr Nuttall. Carried

19/92B Exclusion of the Press & Public

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)’

Cllr Irven proposed that ***‘due to confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Standing Order 1c is invoked and the public are instructed to withdraw’*** Seconded by Cllr Nuttall. Carried.

19/93B West Street Car Park – Boundary Enquiry

(i) Report and recommendations from the Working Group:

See Excluded Notes 19/02EX

Cllr Nuttall proposed that ***‘the public are re-admitted to the meeting’***. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

19/94B Matters to note for the next meeting:

- Liaise with the Clerk
- West Street Car Park Fob entry update
- Street lighting update report

Planning and plans to be discussed:

Cllr Murphy made the following statement:

'As a member of the West Somerset Council Planning Committee I must remain impartial and keep an open mind in order to play that role, and, whilst I will participate in the meeting, I will abstain from making a view known and voting'.

19/95B To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next West Somerset/Somerset County Council/ planning meetings: Nothing to report

3/37/18/034 Land adjacent to 1a St Decuman's Road, Watchet, TA23 0AT
Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling (resubmission of 3/37/17/029)
The Committee recommend approval

3/37/19/002 Land to the south of Stoates Mill, Watchet
Erection of 10 No. dwellings with associated works
The Committee rejects the amended application on the same grounds - Concerns on traffic usage. Will reconsider if sufficient proposals put forward for traffic management

T/37/19/001 2 School Close. South Road, Watchet, TA23 0JN
Application to fell one horse chestnut tree included in the West Somerset District Tree Preservation Order T/3/70 at 2 School Close, Watchet
Application deferred until the Committee see an application. This is not on the Website and no paperwork has been received.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....