



Twinned with Pontorson



Twinned with Wassenberg

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**ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022 @ 7.00 PM**

Present:

Councillors: K Saunders (Chair), (Mrs) J Bishop, A Bishop, G Dennis (No Voting Rights), G Evans, N Gardiner, (Ms) J Murphy (No Voting Rights) P Newton-Smith, (Mrs) L Vardy, R Williams.

Assistant Town Clerk: (Mrs) C Haines

Members of the Public: 13 and 2 Police Officers

Apologies: None

		Action
1	APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Maximum 10 Minutes) a) A member from Highworth Town Football Club (HTFC) expressed thanks to Highworth Town Council (HTC) for the swift action taken regarding the travellers on the Lower Rec who arrived late on Monday 6 June 2022. HTFC preference is to ask Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to install a height barrier. b) A member of the Highworth Town Junior Football Club (HTJFC) also expressed their thanks for supporting the removal of the travellers and agreed with the height barrier request. Thanks also extended to Highworth Town Council for the great Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. c) A member of the Public would like to offer suggestions to protect the Lower Rec by way of a drop-down barrier as used in car dealerships. There was also a possible donation of funding. The Chairman thanked everyone for their suggestions and comments and said further discussions with take place under Agenda item 6.	

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3	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>An email was received from HTJFC to express their concerns regarding travellers on the Lower Rec and wants to emphasis the importance of ensuring measures will be put in place to prevent this from re-occurring.</p>	
4	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING:</p> <p>RESOLVED to confirm and sign the Minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee Meeting Tuesday 5 April 2022.</p>	
5	<p>COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE:</p> <p>No amendments to the Terms of Reference were proposed and they were accepted by the Committee.</p>	
6	<p>LOWER REC:</p> <p>Councillor K Saunders read out the following statement from the Town Clerk in respect of preventative measures at the Lower Rec.</p> <p>‘SBC have approved installation of safety measures of bollards behind the existing knee rails no additional deterrents or funding is available.</p> <p>A proposal was submitted to SBC to install grass mounds on the left-hand side at the entry to the Lower Rec to prevent larger vehicles turning to gain access. SBC stated they are not able to agree to HTC constructing mounds on their retained land.’</p> <p>The Town Clerk is to email the Leader of SBC, Cabinet Members and Key Stakeholders to expedite the request to install preventative measures as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Councillor A Bishop would like to propose we hold a ‘one off’ Working Party with Councillors and the HTFC to understand their views on preventative measures. Committee members agreed for Councillors (Ms) J Murphy, R Williams and A Bishop to represent the Working Party.</p> <p>The Town Clerk is to write a letter to MP Justin Tomlinson and Councillor D Renard SBC providing a detailed account on the current situation and ask them to support HTC and to request SBC look at the possibility of increasing the areas available to travellers.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk is to put a notification on Facebook and social media to residents to avoid the Low Rec site during clean up.</p>	<p>DR</p> <p>CH</p>
7	<p>SKATE PARK:</p> <p>Councillor K Saunders confirmed the Official Opening of the Skate Park is scheduled for Saturday 6 August 2022 between midday - 4.00pm. The Town Clerk is to look at options of extending the Event to make it more inclusive, i.e. Ice Cream Vans etc.</p> <p>The Town Clerk is to liaise with Maverick to remove ‘Swindon’ from the promotional flyer.</p> <p>Councillor K Saunders proposed that Councillors talk to the Skate Park Group to find out what they would like to see at the Event.</p>	<p>DR</p> <p>DR</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p><i>Standing Orders were suspended to allow Councillor G Dennis to address the Committee.</i></p> <p>The Town Clerk is to contact the local Schools to allow them to promote the opening of the Skate Park before end of term.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were reinstated.</i></p>	DR
8	<p>HIGH STREET PROPERTIES IN NEED OF REPAIR:</p> <p>Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop expressed her concern regarding the conditions of some of the buildings on the left-hand side down the High Street from Swindon Street. HTC need to ascertain who the landlords/owners of the properties are.</p> <p>Rubbish bags have been left in the archway to the South door of St Michael's Church when the Church is in service for Funerals/Weddings which is not acceptable. The condition of the pavements on both sides of the High Street is very uneven and poor quality.</p> <p>The Town Clerk is to investigate S106 monies to ascertain if there is any available funding to address the issues raised.</p> <p>The Town Clerk is to invite SBC Conservation Officer to a meeting to clarify her views on the conditions of some of the properties and how HTC can take this forward.</p> <p>Councillor (Ms) J Murphy is to carry out an Audit of the current issues and identify any associated risks, this is to be passed to Councillor A Bishop who will follow this up with SBC and report back.</p>	DR DR JM/AB
9	<p>MEMBERS' BUSINESS:</p> <p><u>Councillor L Vardy:</u> Concerns were raised regarding Blandford Alley wall which is in need of urgent repair, the Town Clerk is to contact SBC as this is privately owned and the owner is unknown.</p> <p><u>Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop:</u> Concerns were raised regarding the late-night drinking outside the front of the King & Queen Public House. Councillor K Smith is liaising with the Licencing Team and is to provide an update at a future meeting.</p> <p><u>Councillor R Williams:</u> Expressed his thanks to HTC Grounds Team and Councillors that supported the Police with the arrival of travellers on Monday evening.</p> <p><u>Councillor (Miss) J Murphy:</u> Expressed her thanks to HTC in the handling of the assault on a member of staff on Monday evening and to reflect on the Jubilee Weekend Events.</p> <p><u>Councillor K Saunders:</u> Thanked the Office Staff and Grounds Staff for a fantastic Jubilee Celebration, 3 totally different events which were extremely well attended and as a Town we should all be extremely pleased with the achievement.</p>	DR Keith S
	MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM	

Signed:

Date: