

## Market Drayton Town Council

### Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R. Aldcroft (Chairman), B. Chapman, M. Erwin, R. Hughes, W. Love, T. Manton, A. Sanderson, and M Whittle.

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Councillors: R. Bentley, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, and I. Nellins.

8 members of the public were present and 5 members of the public listening to the meeting via Teams.

**In Attendance:** Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

#### 1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor R. Bentley	-	Illness
Councillor J. Beckett	-	No reason given
Councillor T. Beckett	-	No reason given
Councillor I. Nellins	-	Work commitments

#### 2.SF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

There were several members of public wishing to speak at the meeting.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To suspend Standing Orders to allow the members of public to speak at the meeting.**

A resident that lives near the bottom of the park said that since the benches have been removed the antisocial behavior has stopped, he urged members not to reinstall the benches and to consider relocating them to the open space at the back of the swimming baths.

A resident that lives near the top of the park spoke about how the antisocial behavior has had a large impact on herself and other residents in the area. She was pleased the benches had been removed which reduced the number of large gangs of youth hanging around significantly. She said more families are now using

the park and that she would like to keep it this way and not have the benches put back onto the park.

Another local resident raised the following concerns:

- Foul language from children using the Town Park
- The Town Park has been much quieter since the benches have been removed. however, she would like to see more police presence in the area.
- There are dogs being taken on the Town Park; can Town Council address this and enforce fines?
- Town Council have issued letters to various properties within the town to ask they improve the upkeep of the building; Town Council should look after their own property because there is an issue with the guttering on the Town Hall.
- The amount of cigarette butts within the town needs addressing.
- There is a large pothole at the junction to Lidl; can this be addressed?
- There are 4 streetlights out at Manor Gardens and several other lights out around the town and need to be fixed.

The Chairman thanked members for coming to talk at the meeting. The Council have worked with the local police and listened to residents affected by the antisocial behavior on the Town Park, and it has worked well to reduce issues. A discussion later in the meeting will be had to decide if the benches are returned at the park.

Due to Mrs. Grundy having several concerns the Chairman will prepare a written answer to her and deliver it shortly.

The meeting went back into committee.

Due to residents wanting to hear the discussion regarding the Town Park benches:

Councillor Whittle proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To discuss and consider item 7.SF TOWN PARK BENCHES item next on the agenda.**

## **7.SF TOWN PARK BENCHES**

Two picnic benches were removed from the Town Park in July 2022 due to ongoing antisocial behavior. It was resolved to review their removal after six months. Six months has now passed so members discussed if they should be returned.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

- **Not to reinstall the benches on the Town Park.**
- **To decide where the benches could be situated at another Services and Facilities meeting.**

4 members of the public left the Chamber.

#### 4.SF MINUTES

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree and confirm the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on the 24 November 2022.**

#### 5.SF DALELANDS PLAY AREA

Copies of two play area designs were circulated for members to refer to.

The tender opportunity to upgrade the play area was advertised last year. The 5 designs received were displayed at the Library and the Town Hall; residents were asked to vote for their favourite designs.

The working group has considered the tender documents and feedback from the consultation and invited two companies to give a presentation on their play area design.

Jason Lee and Millie Vozza from Kompan joined the meeting and gave their presentation. Members had the opportunity to ask questions. The representatives from Kompan left the meeting.

Ray Parry and Mr Parry from Ray Parry Playgrounds joined the meeting and gave their presentation. Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

The representatives from Kompan re-joined the meeting.

As there were no further questions the Chairman thanked both companies for attending the meeting. The representatives from Kompan and Ray Parry Playgrounds left the Chamber.

Both designs were discussed in-depth; they were both within the tender price of £58,963.00 and both could complete the project by the end of June.

Councillor Whittle propose, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 4 votes for, 3 votes against and 1 abstention:

**To award the tender for the installation of play equipment on Dalelands Park to Kompan.**

The company use recycled materials which fits within Town Councils Climate Change Action Plan and the design came first in the public consultation.

**6.SF CEMETERY FEES**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the cemetery charges and that the costs to run the cemetery are increasing.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To increase the Cemetery Fees by 4% for the financial year 2023/24.**

**8.SF FUTURE USE OF NEWPORT ROAD TOILETS**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members considered a request from Market Drayton Sustainable Communities CIC to use the unused sections of Newport Road Toilet block to store and distribute food as part of their food share initiative.

There was a mixed reaction from members. It would be good to have the area used, the initiative would help members of the town, plus it would provide added security for the building. Concerns were raised around the health and safety of storing food in an old toilet block.

The Clerk reminded members that if they decided to agree to the request; planning approval from Shropshire Council would be required and the Town Councils lease amending.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**  
**With 2 votes for and 6 votes against:**

**To allow Market Drayton Sustainable Communities CIC to use the unused sections of Newport Road Toilet block to store and distribute food as part of their food share initiative provided Shropshire Council Planning department accept the change of use on the building and Town Councils lease is updated.**

The motion was not carried.

Councillor Chapman asked that a vote be taken to reject the request and suggest the group look for commercial premises.

Councillor Hughes responded that as the motion was not carried the request to use the toilet block had been refused and did not need any further discussion.

**9.SF THE ZONE**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To NOTE the written update on activities held at The Zone.

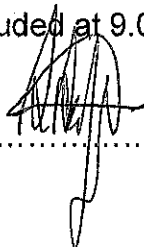
**10.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION**

Members **NOTED** the following updates/information:

- The climbing bridge has been removed from Buntingsdale Play Area.
- The benches at the back of the library have been refurbished using recycled composite wood.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.

Chairman: .....



Date: .....

29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Initial: .....

