

**Minutes of the Tourism & Leisure Committee
held remotely on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present: Cllr Campbell, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Irven, Cllr Richards, Cllr Terrett and Cllr Whetlor (Chair)

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk

21/71A To receive Apologies for Absence: None

21/72A To receive Declarations of Interest:

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr Irven	21/73A	Person who made the application	Personal and Prejudicial	Councillor withdrew from the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or voting
Cllr Whetlor	21/74A	Member of the SW&T Council Licensing Committee	Personal	Councillor remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting

At this point Cllr Whetlor proposed from the Chair that **'the order of business on the agenda is changed whereby item 21/73A will be moved to the last item on the agenda'**. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.

21/74A Consultation:

- (i) Street Trading Consent – SW&T Licensing – paperwork had been circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 1a** – After a brief discussion whereby members were appreciative that they had been consulted, Cllr Johnson proposed that the **'contents of the report are noted'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.
- (ii) Public Space Protection Orders- SW&T Council – paperwork had been circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 1b** – it was commented on that this Council has worked conscientiously to have the current PSPO reviewed in relation to the designated areas within the district where alcohol consumption was not permissible. It had been pointed out by this Council during several meetings with SW&T Officers, that there was a flaw in the current PSPO that needed amending when it was up for review. The Committee looked on favourably on the information received that **'in relation to alcohol consumption only, the current PSPO has lapsed and in the cases of Minehead and Watchet, there are no plans to renew it'**. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'SW&T Council are responded to and thanked for listening to the Town Councils concerns and acting appropriately'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

21/75A Memorial Ground:

- (i) Update on new signage relating to the Dog Exclusion Order- circulated to members via **Appendix 2a** – After a long discussion, the following was agreed via a proposal by Cllr Whetlor. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.
 - Amendments agreed as follows remove 'the' from the first line of text
 - Change wording – **'There is a Dog Exclusion Order on the Memorial Ground whereby dogs are only allowed on designated areas and must be kept under close control. The designated areas are clearly marked on the maps located around the ground'**.
 - Take out the words 'NO DOGS'
 - A golf club symbol will be inserted next to the text 'No Hard Ball Games'
 - Enlarge the maps and include a 'no dogs' symbol, the colour of the symbol must be checked.
 - Cllr Terrett to liaise with the Clerk and Ground staff on size, and quantity of signs and the inclusion of 'you are here' stickers on the 4 larger signs to be located at four entrance points to the ground.
 - The revised proofs, when circulated to members for validation, will be signed off by the Proper Officer and the order placed immediately.

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- (ii) To approve a quotation for Tree Surgeon work – circulated to members via **Appendix 2b** – quotations from two tree surgeons to undertake work to remove dead trees on the Memorial Ground over a period of 3 days were considered. Cllr Johnson proposed that **'Contractor B at a cost of £1600 is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

Cllr Richards left the meeting at 7.00pm

21/76A MUGA:

- (i) Proposal to set up a 4a -side Football league – a report from Cllr Terrett circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 3** -Cllr Terrett reported:

During a meeting on 27th January 2021 with the WWMGMC to discuss the financing and SLA for 2021. It was highlighted to the group that the Committee are looking at a loss of income this fiscal year due to the unfortunate effect of the COVID 19 pandemic, this is predicted to follow on from the depleted funds from last year. This is due to the lack of official football matches, no cricket season and lack of Watchet Live activities on the Memorial Ground.

Another year without mainstay sport and events will obviously affect the WWMGWC monetary income as it has/will most businesses and in turn will have a rippling effect through their outgoings as they struggle to keep afloat. WTC are trying to help by waiving current SLA contributions for the maintenance of the ground p, however as grass roots level sports continue struggle in another year of uncertainty, red flags will start to show.

Cllr Terrett presented to the T&L Committee the proposal of setting up a 4 a-side league on the MUGA facility, which could potentially be an easily adaptable way to generate funds on a short- & long-term basis for all parties involved.

It could include.

- Summer/ Winter leagues
- Adults & Children leagues
- COVID 19 adaptable (except in strictest of lockdowns)

RECOMMENDATION:

Delegation is given to Cllr Terrett to explore the proposition of staging these biweekly events through certain times of the year (TBC - subject to public interest) with the relevant parties. Dates will be subject to COVID lockdown restrictions and further discussion with WTFC & WWMGMC representatives and in liaison with the Clerical Officer who manages the MUGA bookings.

Cllr Johnson proposed that the **'recommendation as presented is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

21/77A Henry Davey:

- (i) Replacement of small skate ramps - the Clerk gave the following background report:
Around 18 months ago a local resident advertised in the Free Press that she wished to donate a half pipe metal skate ramp to a deserving home, in memorial of her son who loved skate boarding. Watchet Town Council replied to the advertisement with an expression of interest, as the life of the current small skate ramps were coming to an end within the next 24 months. The Clerk was informed when the enquiry was made, that the ramp had been donated to Minehead Town Council who had made the request prior to Watchet Town Council. The Clerk has kept a close monitoring brief on this matter and in liaison with Minehead Town Council Officers, it seems there may be a possibility for Watchet Town Council to explore again the acquisition of the skate ramp.

A long discussion ensued identifying several factors to consider before committing to this. Members agreed that Minehead Eye and Young Somerset should be contacted to explore the wants and needs of the young people in relation to the skate ramps. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'arrangements are made with Minehead Town Council for Cllrs Irven and Terrett to inspect the half pipe skate ramp on offer and assess its suitability as a replacement for the larger skate ramp in situ at the Henry Davey skate park. In addition, Cllr Campbell and Whetlor will liaise with Minehead Eye and Young Somerset, and the Clerk will explore a funding stream with a view to the replacement of the two smaller skate ramps within the next 6 months'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried

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21/78A Matters for the next meeting:

- Liaise with the Clerk

Having declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this item, Cllr Irven withdrew from the meeting at 7.23pm

21/73A The Esplanade:

(i) Approval of bookings:

- a. Watchet Summertime – paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'permission is granted subject to the following caveat, that at the time of the event a Risk Assessment is submitted clearly demonstrating how the COVID regulations will be met'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

Meeting closed at 7.26pm

Signed: .....

Dated: 9/3/21.....