

Minutes of the Tourism & Leisure Committee
held on Thursday 17 June 2021 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Ellwood, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Irven, Cllr Richards, Cllr Terrett and Cllr Whetlor

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk

21/94A **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Whetlor proposed that 'apologies from Cllr Campbell are accepted'. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

21/95A **To receive Declarations of Interest:**

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr Irven	21/96A (b)	Chair of Watchet Summertime	Personal	Cllr remained in the room and participated in the discussion and voting

21/96A **The Esplanade:**

- (i) Approval of Bookings:
- a. Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance – change of date for the 'Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge' – the Clerk gave the following update- the Committee having suggested the alternate registration and starting venue of the Henry Davey as this event clashes with the Watchet Street Fayre on the Esplanade, were informed that after a site visit that the organisation had decided on a registration and starting venue in Washford for this year's event. The Committee has expressed its interest to the organisation that the 2022 event returns to Watchet.
 - b. Scaled down Fun Day – The Clerk presented a report outlining the 3 acts (children's performers) who had been provisionally booked to form part of the Watchet Summertime event. Cllr Irven as the Chair of Summertime gave a brief outline to members on the format of the 2021 Summertime event comprising of a series of mini street fairs and markets with a different theme each day. After a brief discussion, Cllr Johnson proposed that **'the Council Fun Day goes ahead with a budget of up to £1,000 on Friday 20 August 2021 in line with COVID guidelines in force at the time of the event'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried with 5 votes for and 1 abstention.

21/97A **Memorial Ground:**

- (i) Additional picnic tables- Cllr Whetlor reported that it had been brought to her attention that more seating for young families is needed in the play area. With the advent of COVID more people are staying at home or visiting Watchet than ever before and the current provision is inadequate as reported to her by mums regularly using the play area. A brief discussion ensued where the replacement of the picnic benches located outside the entrance gate to the play area should also be explored and the research into the cost of extra play equipment incorporating a new swing set researched. Cllr Johnson proposed that **'the cost of x4 picnic benches in recyclable plastic are explored and additional play equipment incorporating a swing set is researched and brought back to the next meeting'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

21/98A **Tourism:**

- (i) Enquiry to Somerset County Council regarding West Somerset Railway timetable and crossing at Minehead- this matter has been resolved as the Committee has been informed by the Marketing Officer WSR, that the Wednesday service to Watchet will resume within 7 days (21 June 2021) and as of 16 July fixed excursions from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead, or Minehead to Watchet will be on offer only until social distancing measures are lifted ,where it is hoped that intermediate stations will be opened and there will be more flexibility regarding tickets. Members noted the update.

JJ

21/99A Henry Davey:

- (i) Verbal update on replacement skate ramps and funding options – the Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with a skate ramp designer on 7 July 2021 of which members had been invited to look at design options for the site. An update will be given at the next meeting.

21/100A MUGA:

- (i) **Recommendation from the WCC Committee:** - *'As the revised shelters' primary purpose will be to provide shelter for MUGA spectators/kit, it is recommended that the quotation is referred to the Tourism & Leisure Committee for approval and payment, with an agreed 25% contribution (£450) from the WCCMC taken from the youth provision budget rather than the previously agreed £300 for a temporary structure. The Committee agree in principle for the structure to be bolted to the side of the community centre building'*. – after a brief discussion Cllr Irven proposed that ***'the shelter design is approved at a cost to this Committee of £1800 (minus WCC contribution of £450) = £ 1350 and erected in recognition of support for the overall principle of a shelter in this area'***. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. With 3 votes for and 3 votes against, the Chair of the Commirree's casting vote comes into operation. Cllr Whetlor voted in favour. Carried.
- (ii) **To install two gates at either end of the boundary between MUGA and Football Club –** to discuss quotation and paperwork issued at the meeting- members considered the quote and design from a local contractor. For safety reasons, Cllr Johnson proposed that ***'the bespoke gates are made at a cost of £ 1,070 and installed'***. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried

21/101A Matters for the next meeting:

- Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.08pm

Signed:.....


Dated:
14/7/21