

**Minutes of the Tourism & Leisure Committee
held on Thursday 15 July 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present: Cllr Ellwood, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Irven, and Cllr Whetlor

In attendance: Jo Grellier, Clerical Officer

In the absence of the Town Clerk, Jo Grellier was Committee Clerk

21/102A **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Whetlor proposed that '*apologies from Cllrs Richards and Terrett are accepted*'. Seconded by Cllr Ellwood. Carried.

21/103A **To receive Declarations of Interest:**

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr Irven	21/104A(a)	Chair of Watchet Summertime and Director of WCCT	Personal	Cllr remained in the room and participated in the discussion and voting
Cllr Whetlor	21/104A(b)	Volunteering to help with the event	Personal	Cllr remained in the room and participated in the discussion and voting
Cllr Whetlor	21/106A	Member of WACET	Personal	Cllr remained in the room and participated in the discussion and voting

21/104A **The Esplanade:**

(i) **Approval of bookings:**

- a. 20-year Marina celebration Street Fair- *paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting*
Cllr Johnson proposed '**As approval is given for the Esplanade events only, not East Quay as not in the Committees remit to do so, on the proviso that a Risk Assessment and Insurance Certificate are submitted before the event, members noted this matter. Harbour Road Toilets will remain open until 10pm**'. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.
- b. Watchet 1940's Homefront- *paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting*
Cllr Irven proposed that '**Approval is given on the proviso that a Risk assessment and insurance certificate are submitted before the event**'. Seconded by Cllr Ellwood. Carried.
- c. Plymouth Harley Davidson – *paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting*
Cllr Whetlor proposed that '**the organiser of Watchet Street Fair is contacted regarding this booking, as it clashes with the Sunday Street Fair, if organisers agree to accommodate this event, it is approved on the proviso that a copy of their insurance certificate is submitted before the event, and they are advised of the event already taking place on the Esplanade.**
- d. COVID approval for events in line with government guidelines – update report by EH&S Officer
Cllr Irven reported the following:
**'Following the latest UK Government guidelines on relaxation of all COVID restrictions on social distancing and face coverings from 19th July, WTC can revert to normal operation of its facilities to pre-COVID risk assessments.
Watchet Town Council (WTC) will retain the option of requesting face masks to be worn indoors where occupancy numbers might warrant this at the discretion of the facility manager and will still maintain an appropriate level of hygiene including hand washing, and surface and other cleaning to the provisions of our COVID risk assessment amendments and medical hygiene policy. In addition, hand sanitisers will continue to be provided as an option for people to use.
WTC will continue to take a measured approach during the release of lockdown and will review this guidance as any Government guidance might change as the pandemic situation continues to evolve.
This amendment applies to all Watchet Town Council facilities and operations including Council Office and Visitor centre, Harbour Road Toilets, parks & playgrounds (Memorial Ground, Childrens' playground, Henry Davey, MUGA), Cemetery, Library & War**

Memorial, Community Centre, Watchet Esplanade events, and Watchet Market'.
Members noted the report.

- e. **Signage** – no update as this matter is in hand as the Clerk is waiting for a response from SW&T Council. Cllr Johnson requested that this item is chased.

21/105A **Memorial Ground:**

- (i) To consider quotations for 4 x picnic tables – *paperwork circulated at the meeting*
Cllr Johnson proposed **'this item is deferred until the next Tourism & Leisure meeting to give members time to review the quotations provided before making a decision'**.
Seconded by Cllr Ellwood. Carried.
- (ii) New play equipment – Update and recommendations from the Clerical Officer – *Paperwork issued to members prior to the meeting*
The Clerical officer gave a verbal update on a very informative site visit with a local Playground Equipment provider. The Memorial playground play area is not only very popular with the younger children in Watchet, but also visitors to the Town. Some equipment, especially the previously donated under 5 castle is in a state of disrepair. The ground staff have been maintaining any damage, but this is now a regular occurrence, and could prove a health & safety risk.

There are currently 2 junior swing seats, and 2 baby swing seats. The committee were keen to explore the costs of additional swings. A new pentagon 5-way swing will provide 5 junior swing seats. The idea being that the existing junior swing seats can be replaced with baby seats to increase the amount of baby swings to 4.

If the castle is to be removed, research has been conducted to purchase and install a new Robinia agility course in its place. This will provide an extremely versatile piece of equipment for all ages, the sections promote many fine motor skills, including balance, cross-body coordination, spatial awareness, and risk taking.

Cllr Johnson proposed **'The under 5 castle is offered back to the nursery who donated it initially, if they no longer require the equipment source a new home for it in the local area. The castle is dismantled and removed from site by ground staff. The £20,000 budget is agreed in principle to enable the Clerical Officer under her delegation to progress this project with the chosen contractor, but as the funds will not be allocated from the T&L Committee budget a recommendation is put to Full Council in September to earmark funds from reserves for this project'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

21/106A **Tourism:**

- (i) Request by WACET organisation for Council staff to water flower troughs using Town Council watering equipment – *request from WACET Chairman circulated to members prior to the meeting*.
Cllr Irven proposed **'Approval is given for the council staff to water the flower troughs using Watchet Town Council watering equipment'**. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.

21/107A **Henry Davey:**

- (i) Replacement skate ramps and funding options – *update report from the Clerical officer, circulated to members prior to the meeting*
The Clerical officer updated members with a written report following a site visit with a professional Skate Park developer. The Clerical officer along with members of the Committee, Cllrs Ellwood, Irven, Johnson, Whetlor and WTC groundsman attended the site on 7th July with the professional skate park developer to discuss the current skate park equipment and the options available to improve the facility for the town. The current skate ramps are reaching the end of their shelf life and the Committee need to decide if keeping the existing ramps until unusable and additional ramps are acquired or research the proposal of a new spray concrete skate park on the existing site. The skate park developer creates spray concrete parks, which prove to be quieter, maintenance free and a life-long investment for the town.
Cllr Johnson requested the following **'A huge thank you is given to the skate park developer for taking the time to meet members on site and provide such an informative meeting'**
Cllr Irven proposed **'delegation is given to the Clerical Officer to begin the process of researching a new Skate Park with the help of the Skate Park developer, whilst also researching the option of adding concrete sections to the current facility to show due**

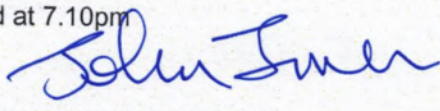
diligence to spending. Put a fully researched report to Full Council at a later date'.
Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.

- (ii) Request from the Conservation Society to install a plaque depicting the historical background of the ground – *Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting*
Cllr Johnson proposed that **'approval of the plaque in principle is given, subject to the wording on the plaque being approved by the Tourism & Leisure Committee'**. Seconded by Cllr Ellwood. Carried.

21/108A **Matters for the next meeting:**

- Liaise with the Clerk
- Playground equipment update
- Skate Park update
- Picnic benches
- Signage

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed:.....


Dated:
15/9/21