

Minutes of the Tourism & Leisure Committee
held on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk

21/109A **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Whetlor proposed that '*apologies from Cllrs Richards are accepted*'. Seconded by Cllr Terrett. Carried with 5 votes for and 1 abstention.

21/110A **To receive Declarations of Interest:** None at this point.

21/111A **The Esplanade:**

(i) **Approval of bookings:**

a. *Clarification of EH&S regulations in relation to larger events* – Cllr Irven as the EH&S designated officer informed members that he was advising on toilet provision at large events and proceeded to table a report and made the following conclusion – for events such as markets, street fairs, Summertime, 1940's Homefront and band performances, which take place over a 6-hour period between 8.00am to 8.00pm, Harbour Road toilets has adequate provision, they are maintained by Watchet Town Council to COVID compliance hygiene standards. Therefore, there is no justification for Watchet Town Council to require additional toilets for community events operating within these guidelines. Where community events choose to provide additional toilets, for example for extended hours and for larger than 499 persons and for a static audience, if located on the Esplanade, they would have to meet the requirement of a risk assessment ensuring appropriate hygiene and security arrangements are in place. Members noted the report.

b. *Signage* – the Clerk reported that she had liaised with the relevant SW&T Council Officer and had been informed that as there is no longer a Public Space Protection Order on the Esplanade, the requirements contained within the original Byelaws should be adhered to, and there is no mention of dogs in the laws, but they are so out of date, a review could be considered. A brief discussion ensued where the control of dogs by their owners and keeping a dog on a lead on the Esplanade was established as a primary concern. Cllr Johnson commented that the current signage on the Esplanade provided by SW&T is out of date and should be reviewed as a priority. Cllr Whetlor as Watchet ward member agreed to try and progress this matter and would report back at the next meeting.

c. *Council Fun Day* – Cllr Irven tabled a report on the Fun Day for members information, it was agreed to note the report and commend the volunteers from Watchet Summertime for their help on the day as feedback shows it was a very successful event and well attended.

21/112A **Memorial Ground:**

(i) *To consider quotations for 4 x picnic tables – paperwork circulated at the meeting* this item was deferred from the last meeting to give members time to fully review the quotations. After a long discussion, Cllr Whetlor proposed that '*x2 rainbow benches are purchased at a cost of up to £1,308.86 to be installed in the children's play area*'. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

(ii) *New play equipment* – the Clerk updated members that the discussion of donating the wooden fort to Knights Templar School was ongoing and tabled a layout plan of where the new equipment would be placed, and updated members that the installation date had been quoted as mid-October. Members noted the update.

(iii) *Signage for the Dog Control Order*- Cllr Terrett informed members that he had not been able to seek an update on the proofs for the signage or an installation date, but he would continue to chase and inform the Committee when he had an update.

(iv) *To consider a proposed bench donated from the WACET organisation* – Cllr Whetlor informed members that this bench had been purchased through extra European funding and the bench would be supplied by SW&T Council rather than WACET. After a brief discussion where members were appreciative of the offer, Cllr Johnson proposed that '*the offer is kindly accepted and a location within the Henry Davey playing field is found to site the new bench*'. Seconded by Cllr Ellwood. Carried with 5 votes for and 1 abstention.

(v) *Request by the Women's Institute to plant a commemorative tree for the Queens Platinum Jubilee* –Cllr Terrett reported that two options had been communicated to the WI as follows:

1. Watchet Town Council allocate a tree in the next round of free tree planting and the WI provide Watchet Town Council with a plaque for the tree. The Council will then install the tree and the plaque in the approved area.
2. Watchet WI can go online and access the Woodland Trust and purchase the tree themselves and place it where they wish and provide their own plaque (subject to approval from whoever owns/runs that area).

There was no update as to their preference at the time of the meeting. After a brief discussion it was agreed that this matter could be progressed by the Climate Change Working Group.

21/113A **Henry Davey:**

- (i) Replacement skate ramps and funding options – the Clerk updated members that there was no further information to give on this matter other than 50 – 60 consultation questionnaires had been circulated and the responses were being collated. There was a suggestion that this matter could be better progressed through a formation of a working group. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'a working group comprising of the Chair of Committee and 2 members is set up'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried
Cllr Whetlor proposed **'Cllr Terrett as a member on the working group'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried
Cllr Terrett proposed **'Cllr Johnson as a member of the working group'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

21/114A **Tourism:**

- (i) Annual rental of the Tidal Pool – Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'the annual rental invoice for the tidal pool at West Street beach is paid at a cost of £50.00'**. Seconded by Cllr Terrett. Carried.

21/115A **Matters for the next meeting:**

- Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.23pm

Signed: 

Dated: 