

**Minutes of the Recreation & Tourism Committee
held on Thursday 14 July 2022 @ 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Jo Grellier, Deputy Town Clerk

22/20A **To receive Apologies for Absence:** None received

22/21A **To receive Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr/s	Item/reason	Personal or Personal & Prejudicial	Action
Cllr Richards	22/23A (ii) – Owner/Resident of property on the Esplanade	Personal	Cllr remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion but abstained from voting
Cllr Summers & Cllr Whetlor	22/23A (ii) – Volunteer for the Phoenix Centre	Personal	Cllr remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and/or voting

22/22A **To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022** (LGA 1972, Sch 12 Para 41 (1)- Cllr Terrett proposed that the ***Minutes of the meeting held on the 16 June 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record.*** Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

Cllr Johnson arrived at the meeting at 6.07pm

22/23A **The Esplanade:**

(i) **Approval of Bookings:**

a. Watchet Phoenix - as all the paperwork was in order, Cllr Terrett proposed that ***permission is granted, following the approval of the Risk Assessment signed by the EH&S Officer.*** Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

(ii) To address a letter from the Chair of the Phoenix Centre regarding loading and unloading of passengers at the disabled entrance – (**See Appendix 1**) - circulated to members prior to the meeting – as this matter was originally raised with Cllr Irven as EH&S Officer. Cllr Irven issued a report to members. Cllr Terrett, as Chair of the Committee, invited Cllr Irven to speak as a non-committee member at the meeting. Cllr Irven informed members that he was approached by the Chair of the Watchet Phoenix Centre after a member of their volunteer team was confronted by the SW&T assistant Harbour Master about access to the Esplanade, particularly impeding traffic on Market days. As EH&S Officer, Cllr Irven was asked to help clarify whether Phoenix are considered by SW&T to no longer have vehicular access rights to their disabled access at the front of the building. Aspects of the historical WTC and Bylaw files were explained to the Committee.

Cllr Irven recommended that:

- That WTC write to SW&T explaining this issue by means of this report, with a request that they confirm our interpretation of Phoenix's right to access for embarking/disembarking elderly/disabled persons on the Esplanade, and that the assistant harbour master is informed of this situation.
- That WTC is authorised to confirm this view to the Watchet Phoenix and our support for their position.
- That the Harbour Master's position is clarified, as the remit for the harbour would not appear to include the Esplanade or WTC's market.
- That WTC amend its T&Cs for use of the Esplanade to include reference to maintaining existing rights of way for other occupiers on the Esplanade.
- WTC ensures that market traders and event vehicles timings for access comply with both emergency vehicles and other owners access rights.

A long discussion ensued, and Cllr Richards proposed that ***Cllr Irven's recommendations are accepted with the addition of when writing to the Phoenix Centre, we politely remind them that when persons are being picked up or dropped off at the Phoenix, that this is done such that access is not blocked for emergency and authorised vehicles at the Harbour Road entrance.*** Seconded by Cllr Summers. Carried with 1 abstention.

Cllr Terrett thanked Cllr Irven for his very detailed report and time taken to investigate this matter.

22/24A **Memorial Ground:**

- (i) To consider a resident's concern regarding traffic flow on the lane leading to the tennis courts (**See Appendix 2**) – circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Johnson informed members that he had visited the site and had conducted research into suitable 'sleeping policemen' to help reduce vehicular speeds along the lane into the Memorial Ground from Highbank. The research was tabled at the meeting. Cllr Johnson recommended that a budget of £1000 was earmarked to purchase two rubber speedbumps which WTC ground staff can bolt into place to reduce speeds to 5mph and signs erected to warn drivers.

As still present at the meeting, Cllr Terret invited Cllr Irven, as EH&S Officer to respond to the recommendation from a Health & Safety aspect. Cllr Irven expressed concern that not enough research has been conducted to ensure we are looking at all the options available, and that all regulations are being met. A thorough assessment must first be conducted to ensure that access for wheelchairs is considered. A long discussion ensued.

Cllr Terret proposed that **'the committee defer this item until the September meeting and delegation is given to the office staff along with guidance from the EH&S Officer and Cllr Johnson who has already obtained helpful information, to obtain further research and report back to the committee at the next meeting. This is to ensure all the options available are considered by the committee, whilst ensuring that regulations are met an access to all is considered'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried with 1 abstention.

22/25A **Henry Davey:**

- (i) Wheeled Park – *working group update and recommendations*– an update report from the Deputy Clerk was circulated prior to the meeting:
- The bid deadline for Tender applications was 12 noon on 4th July 2022
 - The working group has received two Tender applications, with very different designs
 - Both contractors are quoting in the region of £200,000 to complete the project
 - The Deputy Clerk is currently researching Section 106, and other funding available for the project to be able to go ahead
 - The working group are due to meet in August to discuss the Tender Applications and designs received and next stages of the tender process.
 - The public evaluation/consultation stage will commence no later than 5th September 2022
 - Standing Orders state we should have three quotations for this scale of project, but due to it being a very niche market, and evidence that efforts have been made to invite tenders from all known skate park creators in the UK, it has been advised that it is justifiable to only have two quotations for this project.

22/26A **Matters for the next meeting** – verbal, no discussion

- Liaise with the Clerk
- Memorial Ground Speedbump research report and recommendation
- Update from Wheeled Park working group

Meeting closed at 6.34pm

Signed: 

Dated: 22/9/22