

LYTCHETT MINSTER & UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** was held on **TUESDAY 4 April 2023** which commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

- Cllr M Pryor (in the chair)
- Councillor F H Drane
- Councillor R Griffin
- Councillor S McKell
- Councillor J Sheldon
- Councillor W T Pipe
- Councillor P Thompson
- Councillor Mrs D White
- Councillor K Austin

Also in attendance: Mrs K Osborne, Deputy Town Clerk
 Mrs S Samways, (Administration Officer)
 Mr Phil Waddington, Lytchett United Royal British Legion Branch
 Mr Gordon Bailey, Lytchett United Royal British Legion Branch
 Mr Paul Spencer, Lytchett United Royal British Legion Branch

354/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no declarations of interest and apologies for absence from Councillor M Chase (ill health), Councillor C Squires (study) and Karen Cane (holiday).

355/23 CLERKS REPORT:

- a) **Minute 30/22 Amenities Forward Plan Review 2018/2023:** No further information.
- b) **Minute 289/23:** Remembrance. See minute 357/23
- c) **Minute 290/23/Warbler Park Play Area/Skatepark:** See Minute 361/23
- d) **Minute 331/23 Cemetery:** see Minute 360/23

356/23 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ICCM Magazine: Cllr Pryor took the current copy.

357/23 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2023 REMEMBRANCE PARADE:

Representatives of the Royal British Legion (RBL) attended the meeting to state their preferences for the format for the 2023 Remembrance parade; their preference being to return to the pre-covid arrangements. (Muster at the British Legion, march along the highway to the memorial at Lytchett Minster Parish church for the 2 minute silence at 11am, followed by the church service, and marching back to the British Legion for their social event.) The Council thanked the RBL representatives for their input and advised all information will be considered when arranging the 2023 event. The individuals then left the meeting.

Members considered a report outlining a list of format options for this year's Remembrance Parade. All members voiced their support for the Act of Remembrance being observed in the town, in the most appropriate and safe way for all participants and spectators.

After detailed discussion, it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and

RECOMMENDED to repeat the 2022 format of the parade marching along the Lytchett Minster school driveway to the church. This decision to apply only to November 2023, allowing alternative formats to be investigated for the future.

Cllr Pipe expressed his personal support of the Remembrance march along the highway.

358/23 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE BIG COMMUNITY CORONATION PICNIC PLANS:

Members were updated on the arrangements to be part of the national Big Community Picnic to commemorate the coronation of HM King Charles III. A 'bring your own' picnic to Upton Recreation Ground on Sunday May 7 will also have additional family attractions such as bouncy castles, face painting, bike display, hog roast, ice cream etc; other attractions are still to be confirmed. It was suggested a mobile coffee stand be invited to attend.

359/23 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON REDWOOD ROAD PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT:

All members supported the need to improve Council owned play areas. The Deputy Clerk reported she had made further enquiries with Creative Play who were currently advertising a special play equipment package to mark the Coronation. The offer was available until 8 May 2023. A site meeting with the company had taken place at Redwood Road play area to establish further details and whether the package would be suitable for the area. Following the meeting a design plan was proposed by Creative Play and this was distributed at the meeting. Due to the need for resurfacing at the play area to support the play items safely, the package fee had increased but was below the tender procurement threshold of £25,000.

The Deputy Clerk further reported that a meeting with an independent sport and play consultant had taken place who had advised it would be better to pursue a formal tender process for such a project to ensure value for money.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **RECOMMENDED** to:

1. proceed with a full refurbishment of the play area at Redwood Road,
2. meeting the increased budget through grant applications,
3. following a structured procurement process via tenders and
4. procure a specialised contractor to lead this tendering process and public consultation.

The Deputy Clerk would advise Creative Play involved with the 'Kings Coronation Playground Package' that the Town Council would not be proceeding with this option, but they can bid for the tender, along with other play companies.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk and were thanked for their work to date on this project.

360/23 TO CONSIDER RESTRICTING BURIALS IN THE CEMETERY TO LOCAL RESIDENTS ONLY TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES:

Members were provided with figures detailing the income from the cemetery over the previous 3 years which showed that a large proportion of cemetery revenue is generated by non-residents; due to the higher fees charged for non-residents. Consequently, restricting burials to residents only would significantly reduce income for the Council. Members expressed a preference for keeping the rural, non-urban feel to the cemetery, and ensuring enough space for all residents who wish to be interred there.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and

RECOMMENDED to continue to allow non residents access to the cemetery but to investigate the possibility of purchasing additional neighbouring land for consecration; this can then be taken to full council for a decision regarding restricting the cemetery use to residents only.

361/23 TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON TOWN AMENITIES:

Allotments:

Nothing to report.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Nothing to report.

Cemetery:

The issue of cemetery plots with non-compliant memorials is on-going, as and when relatives visit. Relatives addressing the unsafe memorial stones is also ongoing, again, as and when they visit. It was raised whether the wire cages could be re-instated, a new supplier would have to be found. Quotes were being sought to re-surface the car park.

Redwood Road Play Area:

See Minute 359/23.

Warbler Park Play Area / Skatepark:

An external play consultant visited the site, and concluded no equipment should be sited there due to poor access, and the secluded area being uninviting.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and

RECOMMENDED to investigate selling this land. Any monies raised could be used on play area improvements.

It was asked when Aldi would be siting their long awaited rear entrance/exit.

Recreation Ground Play Areas:

Nothing to report.

362/23 TO RECEIVE THE LATEST FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

Members noted the contents.

363/23 ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Cllr Thompson noted the public bins overflowing with litter recently and asked whether DWP increased their schedule for emptying bins in good weather – we are not aware this happens. Full bins are reported to DWP for additional collection.
2. Cllr Austin asked if the water station was on schedule for the official opening on Wednesday 12 April; following the ongoing water tests for legionella etc this will go ahead.
3. Cllr Austin congratulated the outdoor operatives on removing assorted graffiti across the town, however there is still some on the green electrical cabinet at The Crossways. The team will be advised.

4. Cllr Drane noted the time on the Clock Tower is incorrect; the electrician is returning to amend this.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chair.....

Date.....