



# CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL FORE STREET CHARD TA20 1PP

TEL: 01460 239-567 FAX: 01460 65710

Mayor: Councillor Mrs J C Shortland Town Clerk: Mr John Furze MILCM

## COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting of Chard Town Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

G Shortland – Chair

Mrs J C Shortland – Mayor

D Bulmer – Deputy Mayor

Mrs. S Wyatt

Mrs. A Spencer

D R Hill

Mr. A J Prior

Mrs. C Morrison

**In Attendance:** Mrs. Sarah Robson, Deputy Town Clerk and Mr. Paul Thresher, Amenities Supervisor.

There were 21 members of the public present

**01. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.**

[LGA 1972 s85 \(1\)](#).

All Members of the Committee were present.

**02. Declarations of Interest.** Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authorities ([Model Code of Conduct](#)) Order 2007 SI No.1159. *(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).*

Cllr Mrs. J Shortland declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item #6a as she lives directly opposite Nursery Gardens and also in her capacity as County Councillor as she used her community budget to purchase a number of grit bins for the area last year.

Cllr G Shortland declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item #6a as he lives directly opposite Nursery Gardens.

Cllr Mrs. Wyatt declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item #5 as she is a member of the Disability Action Group who are involved in the Ashcroft project and also in Agenda Items # 8 & 9 as her property backs on to the allotments

**03. Exclusion of the Press and public** - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #1c.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised there were no items requested for exclusion by the public and press.

**RESOLVED- To Bring forward Agenda Item #8.**

- 8. Notice of Motion received under Standing Order 11a – Rescission of Previous Resolution signed by Cllrs A J Prior, D Bulmer, Mrs A Spencer, G Shortland and D R Hill,** 'We the undersigned councillors give notice under Standing Order 11a that we wish to reconsider the question of the apportioning of the rent payable to the landlord for the field at Chardstock Lane between the allotment and amenity budgets heads and its possible consequential effect on rent to be levied from allotment holders. In addition reviews completely the sustainability of the allotments for resolutions and/or recommendations to be reported to the February Council meeting'.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction that the Mayor's report entitled 'Allotments Reality Check' had not been circulated to the Allotment Holders Association (AHA) in advance of the meeting. There was some debate regarding the cost of providing the allotments and comparisons were made with other areas.

Councillor Mrs. Shortland proposed and Councillor Mrs. Wyatt seconded a motion that: 'The allotment rent for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 be reduced to £23.00 per annum and members ask officers to record actual costs for allotments only for the next twelve months. Further that the rent for 2012/2013 is set at £28.00 at this stage with a rise to £35.00 per annum in 2013/2014 subject to review in January 2012'

7.45 pm Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the AHA to participate in the meeting.

7.50 pm Standing Orders were re-instated

Further debate ensued about ensuring that officers' time is recorded to ensure a satisfactory review of payroll costs for servicing the allotments.

8.10 pm Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the AHA to participate in the meeting.

8.15 pm Standing Orders were re-instated

Councillor Prior then proposed and Councillor Bulmer seconded a motion that: 'This Committee appoints an Allotments Sub Committee consisting of the chairman and two members to carry out an inspection twice yearly together with an officer and a representative of the AHA'

Councillor Mrs. Shortland then proposed an amendment to the motion and Councillor Bulmer seconded it that:

'This Committee appoints an Allotments Sub Committee consisting of the chairman and two members to carry out an inspection twice yearly together with an officer and a representative of the AHA and that the Sub Committee monitors expenditure for the next twelve months and report back to this Committee'

On being put to the vote the result was Unanimous, the motion was therefore carried

**RESOLVED – 'That this Committee appoints an Allotments Sub Committee consisting of the chairman and two members to carry out an inspection twice yearly together with an officer and a representative of the AHA and that the Sub Committee monitors expenditure for the next twelve months and report back to this Committee'**

Councillor Prior then proposed a second motion that was seconded by Councillor Bulmer that:

'This Committee recommend to Full Council that the budget for the Allotments for 2011/2012 should be:

Admin	£1150.00
Rent	£1500.00
Maintenance	£750.00
Total	£3400.00

and that a rent of £20.00 per plot be levied and that all costs be monitored by the new Sub Committee to ascertain the true cost of the allotments'.

8.30 pm Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the AHA to participate in the meeting.

8.32 pm Standing Orders were re-instated

An offer by the AHA to work in partnership with the Council on cutting back hedges was suggested and Members agreed to review the issue of maintenance at a later date to see if the hedgerows would need further work.

On being put to the vote the result was Unanimous, the motion was therefore carried.

**RESOLVED – 'That this Committee recommend to Full Council that the budget for the Allotments for 2011/2012 should be:**

<b>Admin</b>	<b>£1150.00</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b>£1500.00</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>£750.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3400.00</b>

**and that a rent of £20.00 per plot be levied and that all costs be monitored by the new Sub Committee to ascertain the true cost of the allotments'.**

**RESOLVED- To Bring forward Agenda Item #6a**

## **6. Correspondence –**

- a) Members to consider a petition received on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 by the Town Clerk from Ms J Down of 16 Nursery Gardens, Chard on behalf of the residents of Nursery Gardens asking for a Grit Bin to be provided in Nursery Gardens, Chard.

The debate was centred on the need for authority from Somerset County Council to site the bin where it is accessible for refilling with grit but that once the necessary permissions had been granted a suitable site should be agreed.

Councillor Bulmer proposed and Councillor Mrs. Morrison seconded and it was unanimously..

**RESOLVED- To purchase one grit bin from the Street Furniture Budget 2010/2011 within the Amenities General Cost Centre at a cost of £200.00 for Nursery Gardens, Chard once the necessary permissions had been granted.**

## **RESOLVED- To Bring forward Agenda Item #9**

### **9. To consider and approve the amended Terms & Conditions for the Allotments**

8.45 pm Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the AHA to participate in the meeting.

8.50 pm Standing Orders were re-instated

After some discussion it was.

**RESOLVED – To defer this item to the Sub Committee for consideration as soon as possible and that the Sub Committee Members should comprise Councillor Shortland, Mrs. Wyatt, Prior and that Councillor Mrs. Shortland and Bulmer elected to join the committee.**

8.52 pm 17 Members of the public left the meeting and it was agreed to have a five minute recess.

8.57 pm The meeting re-convened

- 4. Amenities Supervisor’s Report** - A report from the Amenities Supervisor had been circulated. The Members congratulated the Supervisor on the quality of the report and the information contained therein.

**RESOLVED – to note the report.**

- 5. Ashcroft Play Area** – Members to be approve expenditure of ancillary costs from the Play Equipment Maintenance budget for the development of the project to enhance the facility.

**Swan Paul Landscape Architects** – Professional Fees £1800.00

**Wicksteed Leisure** - Cost of parts to refurbish existing equipment £1518.37

**Wicksteed Leisure** - Cost of installation £480.00

**Matta** – Replace existing safety surface under existing equipment £3211.50

To supply and fix plastic coated fence to existing timber fence £2440.00

The Deputy Town Clerk appraised Members of the situation regarding the match funding from SSDC which would deliver a substantial improvement in the facilities at the play area. Members were advised that the old equipment would remain at the site. Some of the equipment is now in need of refurbishment in addition to replacement safety matting under the existing equipment. Confirmation was given that the supply and installation of the plastic coated fence had been included in the tender and this was no longer identified as an additional cost.

Councillor Mrs. Wyatt proposed and the motion was seconded by Councillor Bulmer, on being put to the vote it was unanimously....

**RESOLVED – to approve expenditure of £5209.87 from the Play Equipment Maintenance Budget 2010/2011 and £1800.00 for Professional Fees to be vired from the Street Furniture Budget for 2010/2011.**

## 6. Correspondence –

- b) Members to consider a letter from Marshall Herbert requesting to use Stringfellow Park for a Fair in the spring, May 2011 and for Carnival October 2011 and review a revised site plan.

Members were in agreement that the proposed change to the lay out was acceptable. Councillor Hill proposed and Councillor Mrs. Shortland seconded a motion

On being put to the vote the result was;

VOTING                      For 6:                      Abstention: 2

**RESOLVED – To grant permission to Marshall Herbert to use Stringfellow Park for a fair in the spring, May 2011 and for Carnival, October 2011. It was also agreed to increase the fees to £500.00 for the Spring Fair and £800.00 for the Carnival Fair and re-consider this on an annual basis thereafter.**

- c) Members to consider a letter from Mrs Becher for a litter bin to be placed at the top end of Forton Road

Councillor Mrs. Morrison proposed and Councillor Bulmer seconded, on being put to the vote it was unanimously.....

**RESOLVED – That subject to the necessary permissions to locate a re-conditioned bin at the top end of Forton Road.**

## 7. Notice of Motion received from Cllr D M Bulmer on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011 "That Chard Town Council Amenities committee considers other specific locations of Chard where Grit Bins are required, and that Chard Town Council approves purchase of the required Grit Bins"

After some discussion and consensus with regard to the financial implications that would restrict the provision of bins it was agreed that Members would write to the Town Clerk with suggested priorities for the following Financial Year.

Councillor Bulmer proposed and Councillor Mrs. Shortland seconded, on being put to the vote it was unanimously.....

**RESOLVED – To purchase one grit bin from the Street Furniture Budget 2010/2011 within the Amenities General Cost Centre for Holcombe, Chard and that a further two bins be purchased from the 2011/2012 budget once the necessary permissions had been granted.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.33pm.