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### **Public Session**

Linda Meadows and Peter Martin spoke of their concern at the apparent “lack of information” stemming from both the Town Council and Mendip District Council relating to S.106 funding. The speakers expressed the wish of the allotment holders that S.106 monies be used for the benefit of the existing town council allotments. Councillor Hardy agreed that he would ascertain what the current position was with the allocation of S.106 funds.

Minutes of a Meeting of **Shepton Mallet Town Council’s Open Spaces Committee** held in the Committee Room at Mendip District Council Offices Shepton Mallet on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**

**Present:** Councillors J Hardy C Inchley H Reader N Shearn D Towner and B Poole Town Clerk.

In addition there were four members of the public present.

**OS18.1 To elect a chairman**

Cllr. Jon Hardy was so elected

**OS18.2 To receive any apologies for absence.**

Cllrs N Chambers and D Losey

**OS18.3 To receive any declarations of interest in matters on this agenda**

None

**OS18.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting were approved as a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

#### **OS18.4 Past Subject Matters – for the purpose of report only**

- 1) To receive the minutes of the April TCOP meeting
- 2) To receive the minutes of the April Events Partnership meeting

#### **Received**

#### **OS18.5 To receive the Deputy Town Clerk's report**

Cllr Inchley asked that it be recorded in the minutes the thanks of the committee for the preparation of the report by the Deputy Town Clerk whilst on sick leave.

##### **(1) Update on Eden Grove**

The repairs to the walls and bridge structure are complete and SCC has been asked to remove the barriers so that the grounds team can clear the path of litter.

##### **(2) Incidents of ASB**

There have been a number of incident of ASB within the town. It is advised that every incident is reported to the police to ensure they have an accurate picture on which to allocate resources.

##### **(3) BMX track refurb.**

The resurfacing of the site is now complete and the track is seeing more use than the pre-existing dirt track. The site is due to be signed off by RoSPA, at which point the invoice will be settled by the Council with a generous donation from FReSH.

##### **(4) Town Centre defibrillator**

The defibrillator has been partly installed on the McColl's building. However, the electrical connection to the unit itself cannot be completed until McColl's address some unforeseen issues with the building's electrical wiring. The matter is being addressed by the branch manager.

##### **(5) Hitchen Lane allotment lease**

The lease of the site expires in 2024. The landowner states, *"an extension would be considered in 2024 if the allotments were still in demand, there are certainly no plans at this time to do anything else with the land"*.

##### **(6) Allotment sites rents**

Annual allotment rents have not increased since 2014 when they increased as follows:

- £1.50 on a plot 500 sqft or less (from £11.00 to £12.50)
- £2.00 on a plot over 500 sqft but less than 1100 sqft (from £16.00 to £18.00)
- £2.00 on a plot over 1100 sqft (from £28.00 to £30.00)

(7) Christmas Lights

Full Council approved the additional budget to allow the lights to be improved in the town centre. The works will be ordered as planned.

(8) Dobbies 106 funds for multi-user path

The May SMTC Open Spaces discussion on the Dobbies 106 fund (OS17.6(2)) welcomed use of the fund at an alternative location to the old railway, as originally planned. The Committee resolved that, if an alternative route is likely to be agreed, it would be willing to recommend to full Council that the Cycle Track EMR is used to support any shortfall (without knowing the cost of a path, it is not possible to ascertain at this stage how much the EMR would assist).

The meeting didn't suggest an alternative route, but recognised the validity of observations that there is a desire line through fields at the edge of Whitstone Rise. MDC has confirmed that the S106 makes provision for a path between Fosse Lane and the A37. It does not specify a route, so looking at a different route does not raise any problems in allocating the money. However, use of the money in another location elsewhere in the town will raise problems. In the latter case, a deed of variation would be needed and these are difficult to obtain.

**OS18.6 For resolution.**

**(1) To receive nominations and elect an additional member to the Committee.**

**Resolved** that the newly elected Town Councillor Phil Stevens be invited to be the additional member.

**(2) To thank Ellis & Ellis who, as part of their corporate social responsibility scheme, have agreed to repair, free of charge, the missing stone from the Victorian fountain.**

**Resolved** to formally take the suggested action.

**(3) To resolve any recommendations to be made in relation to the s.106 fund 105941/049, footpath between A37 and Fosse Lane**

**Resolved** that early discussions take place with MDC to ascertain what the most deliverable option would be to satisfy the requirements of the S.106 funding.

**(4) To review the rent charges on allotments.**

**Resolved** that a report is produced which shows the annual expenditure for the two allotment sites.

**(5) To agree to donate an allotment, to the value £18pa, at Whitstone Road for use by Shepton Mallet Youth Club**

**Resolved** to donate an allotment to the value of £18.00 pa at Whitstone Road for use by Shepton Mallet Youth Club.

**(6) To note that the Hitchen Lane allotment lease expires in 2024**

**Noted** as was the following information relayed to the Deputy Town Clerk *“an extension would be considered in 2024 if the allotments were still in demand there are certainly no plans at this time to do anything else with the land”*.

**Resolved** that the owners be asked whether or not they would sell the land and if so at what price.

**(7) To consider the incident of anti-social behaviour across the town and identify any action that might be taken**

The matter was considered and the minutes of the recent TCOP were duly noted.

**(8) To agree to invite the Drugs Bus to the town**

**Resolved** that an invite should be issued to the Drugs Bus to visit the town but before doing so (a) costings should be obtained and (b) how much profile would the service have amongst the town’s young people?

**(9) It was recommendation by TCOP that Open Spaces considers whether a Shop Watch scheme should be implemented in the town centre.**

**Recommended** that in the first instance the Chamber of Commerce be brought on board to join with the Town Council in implementing what the committee members considered a very worthwhile scheme.

Andy Neal has kindly offered his professional services to assist, and this was welcomed. It was agreed to ask Andy to give a presentation to the Committee on what he can offer.

It was noted that Cllrs. H Reader and E Hobbs were also prepared to lead on this.

**(10) To acknowledge complaints that HGVs are travelling at inappropriately high speeds along Fosse Lane and agree what action can be taken.**

**Resolved** to note the complaints and to forward the concerns of the Town Council to the Highways Authority with a request for more appropriate signage.

**OS18.7 Date and time of next Meeting – 7pm, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018**