

WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on
THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2024 in the Pavilion, Fryer Field, West Moors at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Holmes – Chair
 Cllr M Hawkes Cllr Mrs R Burke Cllr A Clarke
 Cllr D Green Cllr J Randall Cllr T Salt
 Cllr Mrs P Yeo

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs Judi Weedon – Town Clerk
 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: None

Absent without Apologies: Cllr D Shortell

23/311 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

23/312 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

23/313 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

- a) Legionella: The cold-water tanks in the pavilion loft have now been cleaned out.
- b) Skatepark: Still waiting on Canvas to carry out some repairs to cracks.
- c) Cemetery: Scottish and Southern Electricity have approached the council for access through the cemetery to get into the woodland to change an electricity pole. Permission has been granted, SSE will make good any damage caused.
- d) Cemetery: A few rotten fence posts have been replaced. Work has begun on clearing lots of green debris from the left hand side of the cemetery adjacent to the nearest neighbour. Thanks to Cllr Burke and her husband for their hard work.
- e) Parking at Arnold Close, minute no 23/256 refers: A request for a TRO has been submitted to Dorset Highways and a letter has been sent to the landowner adjacent to railway to see if a small car parking area can be provided. This matter has been progressed with DC but flooding issues are taking priority.
- f) Oakhurst Play Area: The annual play inspection report highlighted a number of issues with the equipment and fencing. The most serious being the birds nest swing frame. HGS have been instructed to install a new beam and at the same time will carry out a few minor repairs to other pieces of equipment. Once completed the play surface will be cleaned thoroughly.
- g) Gym Equipment at Fryer Field: Damage has been inflicted to the signage for the equipment, with the Perspex being broken. Replacement is being sought for repairs.
- h) Fryer Field: The adverse wet conditions have meant that lots of football fixtures have been called off to protect the field from damage.
- i) Fryer Field: A new fence has been erected at the edge of the car park adjacent to the pavilion.
- j) Pavilion: the taps in the men's toilet have been replaced with auto shut off taps to try and save water, two old shower heads have been replaced. The

floor in certain areas is now in a bad state of repair due to various water leaks, so the painter has been scheduled to repaint all the floors in June.

- k) Car Park at Park Way: This has been cleared of all leaf and vegetation debris.
- l) Cigarette butt pouches: Members agreed to purchase up to £25 of cigarette butt pouches to try and alleviate littering of cigarette butts.

23/314 FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDEN

Members reviewed a draft flood plan. Concerns were raised about resources not being available from organisations such as the Environment Agency to clear trees etc that have impeded rivers.

After discussion it was

RECOMMENDED that the West Moors Draft Flood Plan be adopted.

Voting: unanimous

Members then went on to discuss the Flood Warden Scheme and agreed to advertise to see if any local residents would be interested in taking on this voluntary position.

23/315 FOOTPATH PROPOSAL

Members reviewed a footpath proposal submitted by a local resident. The footpath proposal from Station Road, behind Pennington Road, turning left and right to join up with Riverside Walk.

Members received information about options for proceeding with a new footpath. Local resident Pete Holden spoke in favour of the proposal stating it would link up Riverside Walk and Pennington Copse to the centre of West Moors. It was noted that residents had walked this route for over 30 years, and there is no signage on the route saying it cannot be used. It was also noted that some of the land needed for the footpath was in private ownership and members felt that a Definitive Map Modification Order would be the best way forward which would require evidence gathering from the local community. The current landowner does not maintain the area, it was noted that lots of trees required some attention.

Members then discussed an extension to the proposed route to include the pathways up to the golf course from Farm Road. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that West Moors Town Council pursue a Definitive Map Modification Order for a footpath from Station Road, behind Pennington Road, to the left and right behind Birch Grove and Queens Close, also from Farm Road to behind the golf club.

Voting: unanimous

It was noted that this would need to be advertised within the community in order to collect the evidence required.

23/316 OAKHURST PLAY AREA FENCING

Members received information about the condition of the fencing at the front of Oakhurst Play area along with a quote for replacing this fencing.

Members agreed that the fencing would be better if it was replaced but concerns were raised about the current lease of the land. The Clerk to contact DC legal department and the Academy Trust's solicitors to find out the status of the lease. Members then

RESOLVED to replace the front fencing at Oakhurst Play area at a cost of £1984.

Voting: unanimous

23/317 STATION ROAD/PENNINGTON ROAD JUNCTION

Members considered a request for a 'KEEP CLEAR' sign on the road at the junction of Pennington Road and Station Road, as vehicles are often blocked in by cars stopping at the pedestrian crossing.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED to support a request to Dorset Council to paint 'KEEP CLEAR' on Station Road by its junction with Pennington Road.

Voting: unanimous

23/318 CEMETERY MATTERS

1. Two new benches are due to be installed soon.
2. Cllr Burke and her husband along with Terrafirma have worked hard at the cemetery clearing the left hand side adjacent to the neighbouring property after they had complained about a build-up of debris against the fence. The neighbours also wish for a tree to be removed, however when this was last inspected it was found to be healthy and therefore not a good idea for the council to be removing it. The neighbours have been advised that if they wish to bear the cost they can have the tree removed. It is a very large Fir tree. Members sent a vote of thanks to Cllr Burke and her husband for all their hard work in the cemetery.
3. The new footpath is not installed yet, mainly due to the inclement weather, but work is due to start week commencing 18th March.
4. Some new shingle type product will be put on the footpath between the hedge line at the front of the cemetery and all the tree roots are pushing through the pathway.
5. There have not been any signs of badgers encroaching back into the cemetery.
6. Members were informed of a complaint about weedkilling at the cemetery, a resident had accused the groundsman of spraying weedkiller over a burial plot that they tend to. Pictures were taken the same day and no evidence of weedkilling damage was seen on the burial plot.
7. Members requested that more wildflowers are sown on the old badger area. Clerk to arrange. Also, that the fence on the left hand side at the rear of cemetery may need attention.

23/319 UPDATE: PUBLIC TOILETS

The stalls in the men's toilet both had issues with the flush system, creating a toilet that was constantly running for a long period of time, this had a major impact on the water bill for January. Both flush systems have now been repaired. There has been vandalism to the handwash/dryer unit in the men's facility. A temporary repair will take place.

23/320 UPDATE: ALLOTMENTS

During January and February, 5 people gave up their plots for various issues. These plots have already been re-let. The waiting list stands at 46. Members received a copy of the Allotment Holders meeting minutes. The Chair of the WMAHA reported to the committee on how the gravel board funds had been spent, stating that there was £150 remaining. He asked for permission to reallocate these funds to benefit all the allotment holders. Members

were all agreeable to allowing the surplus to be used for other purposes to benefit all the allotment holders.

23/321 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Traffic Regulation Order for Woolsbridge Industrial Estate. Members did not have any comments to submit.
2. Allotment and Leisure Gardener Issue 1 2024

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:23hrs

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for 2nd May, 2024 at 19:30hrs

SIGNED DATE
Chair of Environment Committee