

WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Thursday 4th March 2021**
via Zoom at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr M Hawkes - Chair
Cllr Mrs R Burke Cllr A Clarke Cllr D Green
Cllr Mrs C Holmes Cllr Mrs N Senior Cllr A Willats
Cllr Mrs P Yeo

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs Judi Weedon (Clerk)
Mrs Amie Fawcett (Assistant to the Clerk)
Cllr K Wilkes

APOLOGIES: Cllr S Linford
Absent without apologies: Cllr D Shortell

597 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

598 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
None

599 TO RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT

- a) As per government guidance all sports facilities will reopen on the 29th March. We have lots of sports clubs who have already paid for the facilities and will be using the sessions that they have paid for.
- b) Woodland Trust Trees: No trees can be ordered at this time as the Woodland Trust is dealing with a cyber-attack.
- c) Pinehurst Road Noticeboard has now been upgraded.
- d) Work to clear the BMX area has begun.
- e) The Horticultural Society have ordered a Prunus Ceraifera Nigra to be planted on the Petwyn.
- f) Christmas Lights: The lights in the trees on the Petwyn are due to be removed in spring, they have been in the trees for 5 years and now need to come out to accommodate any tree growth. They will be put back in later in the year. The 4 lamp posts mounted motifs that are images designed by children (Snowman, Father Christmas, Angel and Tree) are all failing, and repairs have to be carried out every year to maintain them. They are failing because of water ingress due to the number of connections/joints. They could be refurbished again, and it is suggested that they are wall mounted as this will help with reducing water ingress into the joints. A quote is being prepared to purchase additional matching lamp motifs.
- g) Pavilion: The access door to the roof space located in the end of the pavilion nearest the Youth Club has been replaced as it has rotted through and was no longer safe.
- h) The Grange Athletic FC have asked to host their annual football tournament on Fryer Field, at the later date of July 17th/18th. Permission has been granted but a full Covid risk assessment has been requested, which must be provided prior to any event taking place.
- i) The cemetery gate requires a catch on the pedestrian gate as it is being temporarily held open. Members were happy for the Clerk to rectify this as quickly as possible.

600 UPDATE: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY

Cllr Carol Holmes gave an verbal report from the Climate Emergency Working Party meeting held on 17th February; the annual litter pick has been postponed until September; tree ordering and distribution plans are on hold due to supplier issues and Covid-19 restrictions; an initiative to reduce the use of plastic bags in West Moors was debated and further research to be carried out before embarking on it; recap of

achievements to date ref the Climate Change and Biodiversity Action plan and the carbon footprint benchmarking tool to be incorporated into the guest speakers presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on 15th April.

601 UPDATE: ALLOTMENT

Annual rent invoices will be sent out the first week of April and water will be turned back on after the winter shutdown.

One plot is currently vacant and has been offered to the person at the top of the waiting list.

Cllr N Senior reported how pleasant the plots and pathways are looking.

602 UPDATE: FUTURE PROVISION OF CEMETERY SPACE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs P Yeo informed members that an ecologist has now visited the cemetery and offered advice on closing part of the badger sett. Members of the working party are content that this work should go ahead and therefore have asked the ecologist to apply for the license from Natural England to carry out the work.

Cllr Mrs P Yeo and Cllr A Clarke commented on how the ecologist inspired confidence in the council's plans moving forward.

Some work will also be carried out without the need for a license. A 6 ft wire mesh fence will be buried underground along the rear boundary of the cemetery adjacent to the cremation plots. This work is due to be carried out the week commencing 8th March.

603 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Allotment and Leisure Gardener – Issue 1 2021

b) ICCM Journal – Spring 2021

c) Dog Warden reports for Jan and Feb

d) Email from a local resident regarding the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order that came into effect January 1st 2021. Members of the committee were all in agreement that the PSPO was vital for the protection of all users of the field and did not wish any changes to be made to it. The PSPO in force prohibits dogs from entering a marked sports pitch and enclosed children's play areas, dogs must be kept on a lead within 5 metres of a marked sports pitch, as well as requiring dog owners to pick up any dog mess. Members requested that additional signage be installed around the field.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:00hrs

The next Environment meeting is scheduled for 6th May 2021 at 7.30pm

SIGNED DATE
Chair of Environment Committee