

## WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on  
**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023** in the Pavilion, Fryer Field, West Moors at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs R Burke	Cllr D Green	
Cllr M Hawkes	Cllr Mrs C Holmes	Cllr J Randall
Cllr T Salt	Cllr Mrs P Yeo	

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amie Fawcett – Assistant to the Clerk  
1 member of public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr A Clarke

**Absent without  
APOLOGIES:** Cllr D Shortell

### **23/087 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of public spoke in relation to the memorial application for OO06 and OO07.

Said applicant expressed her dissatisfaction with the period of time between the receipt of her memorial application by the council office, which was 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023, to the approval of said memorial. It was explained that any applications received, that do not conform to the cemetery regulations, must be referred to the next appropriate Environment Committee meeting. This procedure was followed for the other oversized memorials in the cemetery, that have recently been authorised.

The Chair of the Committee offered her condolences to the applicant and assured her that no member of the Council or office staff intended to offend or inconvenience her, or her family, but the Council protocols must be followed.

The item for discussion was brought forward and approved in the presence of the applicant.

### **23/088 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Randall declared an interest in the DOG SHOW Item and chose not to vote.

### **23/089 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) EV charging points: No further information
- b) The Spinney: A notification was placed on Facebook. The hot topic noticeboards and at the Spinney about ownership and maintenance of the area.
- c) Pedestrian Crossing update: no further information since receiving confirmation that the crossing request meets criteria. Office staff have been progressing this regularly, as it is now at the feasibility stage.
- d) Fryer Field, Queens Jubilee Copse: Volunteers to help care for the saplings at the copse were sought during Westival. Leaflets were handed out during the event asking for volunteers, an article was also posted on Facebook and emailed to our mailing list. Five volunteers have come forward and a date will be arranged as soon as possible.
- e) Oakhurst Play Area: The license between The Heath Academy Trust, Dorset Council and WMTC has finally been dealt with, however the lease between WMTC and Dorset Council is still outstanding (expired 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and was originally progressed in December 2020). The license is for 10 years as

previously agreed with Dorset Council. The solicitor dealing with the Heath Academy Trust will contact DC to chase.

- f) Fryer Field: a free bootcamp being held on Fryer Field by Anytime Fitness has been a great success.
- g) Speed Indicator Device: Cllr T Salt updated members on the already approved locations (and the additional one requested by Pinehurst shops, but it didn't meet the criteria) for the SID and costs involved (3 X Solar panels that are permanently fixed to the pole and the SID itself that is rotated very 4-6 weeks), approximately totalling to £3,924.00. Cllr Holmes briefly advised members of the operational technicalities of a SID, for their information (for example, the battery affecting range of use) should the council proceed with one later. Cllr Salt requested this be an agenda item at the next Environment Committee meeting.

#### **23/090 OAKHURST PLAY AREA**

Members were informed that the crossbar for the bird's nest swing in Oakhurst Play Area, is showing signs of rot, is a low-level risk, and it will cost approximately £2,385.42 to replace (including installation).

The Clerk recommended that the cross bar be replaced, however members were not comfortable with the price of this part, and as the risk of this defect is low, it was

**RESOLVED that**

**The Clerk seek 2 more quotes and provide this information at the next Environment Committee meeting to re visit this matter.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

#### **23/091 FRYER FIELD SECURITY**

Members discussed the cost and practicalities involved with installing retracting bollards as a safety measure. These are heavy duty steel bollards that are sunk into the ground, when access is required, they are easily operated.

Members were invited to suggest any other security options that may be appropriate. It was noted that there is no current risk with unauthorised access to Fryer Field, the chain at the vehicle gate in WMMH car park has now been secured, so cannot be left in the wrong place again, and it was highlighted that after any hire of the Pavilion or Fryer Field, where a key is held, evidence of the facility being locked will be requested, or where possible, checked by a member of the Council or office staff.

**After discussion it was**

**RESOLVED that no extra measures be taken at present and the item of Fryer Field Security be re-visited at the next Environment Budget meeting, unless circumstances dictate (recommended by the Clerk) it needs to be brought forward.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

Members also discussed whether the gatekeeper for Fryer Field should resume the opening of the gates now that there is a low risk of security breach.

**After discussion it was**

**RESOLVED that the gates now follow its normal opening procedure, but the council to be mindful of local events that might require additional security on Council land.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**23/092 DOG SHOW**

Members were advised that there has been a request for 2 dog shows to be held on Fryer Field in May 2024.

One was by Poole Canine club, for which a date has yet to be provided.

The other is by Friends of the Strays of Greece (who hired the field a couple of months ago), for which Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024, has been confirmed.

Members are asked to decide if they are happy with 2 dog shows being held on Fryer field in the same month next year.

Points of concern were; up to 500 dogs may leave undesired amounts of dog waste and the month of hire is still in football season so pitches must be left clean at all times. Members felt the hire fee of £100 was not enough, a separate contract is needed when a Dog Show is taking place, and this should include increasing the cash deposit and stipulate dog waste bags be provided to all guests.

**After discussion it was**

**RESOLVED that the Council permit the hire in principle, but office staff to draft a contract of hire and members to review this at the next Environment Committee meeting and decide on the charge.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

*Cllr Randall chose not to vote.*

**23/093 CEMETERY MATTERS:**

**General update:**

Members were advised that the vault memorial has been authorised, cemetery regulations and fees have been actioned, Pear Technology have altered the cemetery map, the open cremation area will be discussed at a future meeting when all members are present and further information has been provided, and retrospective charges have been applied against the NN19 memorial (this will be progressed in August, as a relative of the Rights of Burial owner has initially refused to accept the charges).

**a. Caskets and Vaults**

Members considered the rescission of **recommendation 23/057c**, prohibiting caskets in the new area of the cemetery. This can be done by a motion being moved in pursuance of the report on the agenda for this meeting.

After clarification that the width of each plot in the new area of the cemetery, take a casket, without the need to purchase two plots,

**It was**

**RECOMMENDED that the Council now permits caskets in the new area of the cemetery.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**b. New pathway**

The Clerk recommended that a new pathway is installed to separate the headstone only area and the kerb set area. Members were provided with 3 quotes, the lowest being £2,100, then £2,750 and the highest being £3,600.

**After discussion it was**

**RESOLVED to install a new path and remove the old one.**

**The contract to be awarded to Mike Clifford.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**c. Applying opening times to the cemetery:**

Members were informed of recent anti-social behaviour in the cemetery and asked to discuss the request made by a local resident, of locking the pedestrian gates after dusk, like Fryer Field and Oakhurst play Area.

Members sympathised with local residents being affected by any anti-social behaviour, but it was noted that a gatekeeper would be required to lock and unlock, and it would not be a preventive measure but a small deterrent.

**After discussion it was**

**RESOLVED that the pedestrian cemetery gate always remains unlocked, but office staff to contact the Local PCSO's and request patrols and presence when possible.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**d. Memorial Application for OO06 and OO07:**

Members reviewed an application for an oversized memorial.

After seeing the existing memorial (SAXBY) in the cemetery on 12<sup>th</sup> July, which does not conform to regulations, but was installed over 20 years ago, and reviewing the application for an identical memorial for Burial plots OO06 and OO07

**It was**

**RESOLVED that permission be granted for the oversized memorial application for OO06 and OO07.**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**23/094 UPDATE: PUBLIC TOILETS**

Nothing reported.

**23/095 UPDATE: ALLOTMENTS**

Members were advised on the woodchip delivered 14<sup>th</sup> July for allotment holders to use, the recent rat problem, the owner who was asked to remove a large structure from their plot and a couple of plots that are being monitored by the Clerk and Chair of the WMAHA.

**23/096 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. ICCM Summer issue

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:25 hrs

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 19:30hrs

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
Chair of Environment Committee