

Minutes of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY, 6 June 2023** at **6.00 pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillor: C Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors: C. Bihari, S. Bowron, J Donald, P Donald, B. Lamb, C Woods

Officials: D Anderson, Town Clerk
E Clark, Works Manager
S Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

CS.1.23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Farry and J Makepeace.

Councillor K Tinkler was not present but no apologies were received.

CS.2.23-24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the election of a Chairman for 2023/24.

Moved by Councillor S Bowron that Councillor C Atkinson be elected as Chairman, **Seconded by** Councillor P Donald.

RESOLVED That Councillor C Atkinson be elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

CS.3.23-24 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the election of Vice Chairman for 2023/24

Moved by Councillor C Bihari that Councillor S Bowron be elected as Vice Chairman, **Seconded by** Councillor P Donald.

RESOLVED That Councillor S Bowron be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

CS.4.23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

CS.5.23-24 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

There were no members' dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

CS.6.23-24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present in relation to item 8 on the agenda, Storehouse Allotments.

Members agreed to bring forward item 8 on the agenda.

CS.7.23-24 STOREHOUSE ALLOTMENTS

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

The Clerk distributed a plan to members to show highlighting the proposed area to be cleared.

Member of Public, Mr M Forster who is also a tenant on Storehouse Allotments gave members some background information about the land at Storehouse Allotments. He also advised that before the proposed clearance of allotment plots take place this should be sprayed. He also suggested that to avoid future issues with fly tipping the Council should invest in some security padlocks whereby keys can't be copied and charge tenants £25 for example for a key and when the key is returned the money will be refunded, this will encourage tenants to hand the key back in.

Moved by Councillor C Bihari, **Seconded by** Councillor S Bowron to clear the area highlighted red on the plan and make 8 full plots and 4 half plots. The costs be covered from the allotment reserves.

Moved by Councillor C Atkinson to arrange site visits to the other two sites, to ascertain what work is needed, **Seconded by** Councillor B Lamb.

The Town Clerk advised that the company that provided a quote for clearing the plots be asked for the cost of spraying also. Spraying would be done either inhouse or via the contractor, whichever was most cost effective.

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

1. That plots 52 – 61 and 31/32 be cleared at a cost of approximately £2,000 and a price be sought to spray the area, the area be made into 8 full size plots and 4 half sized plots as indicated on the plan circulated at the meeting.
2. That site visits be arranged to Paxton Street and East End Allotments

CS.8.23-24 PUBLIC TOILETS, FERRYHILL STATION

Members considered a report which was previously circulated. The Town Clerk also provided members with information on a range of security doors.

Councillor C Woods advised the meeting that she had an appointment with the headteacher at Ferryhill Station School to discuss the children designing pictures that could be made into a mural to be displayed on the toilet block, this may deter children from vandalising them if they have had some involvement.

Councillor C Atkinson offered to speak to the Art Department at Ferryhill Comprehensive School and they could work together to come up with ideas.

Members agreed that the toilets should be re-opened and only one side of the toilets be opened as a unisex facility and a steel door should be installed to the toilet block to minimise access and arson attacks overnight.

Moved by Councillor C Bihari to look further into the purchase and installation of the T15+ Basic Plus Toilet Door, **Seconded by** Councillor C Woods.

Councillor Bihari queried if this could be taken from capital receipts, the Town Clerk advised that it was unlikely that this could be views as a capital project, but he would check with the Consultant Accountant, if not it was suggested this be covered from general reserves.

As the toilet block is on a bus route and was used regularly by bus drivers it was suggested that Bus Companies operating in the area be contacted to advise that a radar key would be needed to access the toilets once they re-open.

Members agreed to the proposal in principle, and it was agreed that a report be brought to the next Resources Committee for approval.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillors Woods & Atkinson speak to the schools to involve the children with designs for a mural.
- 2. That only one side of the toilets be re-opened as a unisex facility.
- 3. The Council look further into the purchase and installation of a T15+ Basic Plus Toilet Door with a RADAR mechanism to prevent vandalism to the unisex facility, costs to be covered from capital receipts if possible, general reserves if not.
- 4. That investigations be made into the feasibility of CCTV being installed on a lamppost outside the toilets.
- 5. That steps be taken to ensure the two other doors remained securely locked.
- 6. That Local Bus Companies be advised that a RADAR key will be needed to access the toilets.

CS.9.23-24 WORKS MANAGERS QUARTERLY REPORT

Members considered a report which was previously circulated. The Works Manger was in attendance to answer Members questions.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.10pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....