

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PROPERTIES, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE HELD ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2019

Present: Councillor Bampton (Chair), Councillor Buchanan and Councillor White.

PUBLIC SESSION: There were no members of the public present.

19/12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Standing Order No.43, nominations were taken for a Chairman. Councillor Buchanan nominated Councillor Bampton – the nomination was seconded by Councillor White. A vote was taken and by show of hands it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bampton was elected as Chairman of the Properties, Administration and Finance Committee to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Nominations for a Vice Chairman were deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

19/13 NOTICE OF MEETING

Public Notice of the meeting was taken as read.

19/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Haigh and Councillor Millward and accepted.

19/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

19/16 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

As printed agenda

19/17 INTERNAL CONTROLS

Councillors considered the Schedule of Payments for May 2019 circulated with the agenda and

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for May 2019 in the sum of £6797.86 be approved.

It was agreed to defer the internal control checks agreed by Council until the next meeting of the Committee.

19/18 ROBERT ASHTON MEMORIAL PARK

Councillors discussed the results of the site visit / inspection of the Robert Ashton Memorial Park and the issues raised at the recent Town Meeting.

It was agreed to explore the installation of a path to the bench which has modifications for those using a wheelchair and onto the bandstand and to look at the redesign of the flagged area by the labor. The Clerk to obtain further information and quotes as appropriate and liaise with the ground's maintenance contractor.

It was agreed to replace the current damaged 5mph sign on the driveway and add a warning about children.

RESOLVED: That current damaged 5mph sign on the driveway should be replaced and additional warning signage be obtained and that the costs of the works be approved.

The grounds maintenance contractor be asked to cut back several of the hedges in the formal garden area and the tennis court area as discussed on site. The grounds maintenance contractor be asked to cut back shrubbery where possible to allow more light into the pond area.

It was agreed to work with the Councils contractor on his suggestions for additional signage on the toilet block – the contractor to provide revised designs. It was agreed that the Contractor should repair the steps from the pergola to the drive using some existing flagstones located in the park and that the steps from the car park to the pond be backfilled with bark chippings.

The damage to the surface of the younger children's play area was noted. A discussion took place about whether the surface should be covered or replaced with play grade bark chippings or whether the wet pour should be repaired again.

RESOLVED: That the wet pour surface on the younger children's play area should be repaired again and that the costs of the works be approved.

RESOLVED: That the stolen Yorkshire stone flagstones be replaced with a tarmac surface and that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to have the work done and that the costs of the works be approved.

RESOLVED: That significant areas of the parkland in the vicinity of the band stand should be left longer with mown paths through and turned over to wildflowers / meadow in the interests of the amenity value of the park, pollinators and the environment. The Clerk to explore this with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

Councillors welcomed the request from a young resident for a basketball hoop to be installed in the park. It was noted that further discussion on the exact location was required.

The grounds maintenance contractor agreed to take steps to weed the children's play area urgently.

It was agreed to install 'zebra crossing type markings' on the driveway from the children's play areas to the car park. The Clerk said that this had been put on hold previously over concerns about any potential risks this posed to the Council and that a definitive position had not been reached on this. Councillors felt that any potential risks were not significant enough to delay the installation of the crossing.

RESOLVED: That the Councils contractor be asked to install 'zebra crossing type markings' on the driveway from the children's play areas to the car park and that the costs of the works be approved.

It was noted that damage to the wall in the formal gardens was being caused by a sapling growing from a neighboring garden. The Clerk be asked to contact the owners of the garden and make arrangements to have the sapling removed and the wall repaired.

Councillors deferred the discussed concerning the re-installation of the Mercury Sculpture until further information was received.

Councillors agreed to the cutting back of the right-hand overgrown hedge bordering the driveway up to Back Lodge following a request from a resident.

RESOLVED: That the right-hand overgrown hedge bordering the driveway up to Back Lodge be cut back and that the costs of this work be approved.

Councillors considered the quote to repair a non-functioning lamp on the park driveway circulated with the agenda. It was noted that it may be more economical in the long run to purchase a new replacement unit. The Clerk was asked to contact the electrician about this. It was agreed that the Clerk be given delegated authority to proceed with the current quote or to agree the replacement of the unit (provided the cost did not exceed the current quote) and the necessary expenditure was approved.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be given delegated authority to proceed with the current quote or to agree the replacement of the unit (provided the cost did not exceed the current quote) and that the necessary expenditure was approved.