

MINUTES
of the Devolved Services and Assets Committee
held on Thursday 25th April 2019 at 7.30pm
at the Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB

Membership:

Cllr Brett (East) Chairman	*	Cllr Macfarlane (West)	*
Cllr Fraser (West) Vice Chairman	*	Cllr Nicklin (West)	*
Cllr Fryer (Broadway)	*	Cllr Robbins (East)	*
Cllr Jeffries (Copheap)	A		

Key: * Present A Apologies AB Absent

In attendance: Peter Hewitt

Officers: Fiona Fox, Town Clerk and RFO, Tom Dommert, Assistant Town Clerk, Stuart Legg, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Public and press: 8 members of the public 0 press

DS/18/114 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr Jeffries.

DS/18/115 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

DS/18/116 **Minutes**
DS/18/105.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

DS/18/105.2 Matters arising.
Covered in the agenda.

DS/18/117 **Chairman's Announcements**
The finishing touches are being made for Spring in the Park on 5th May. Green Flag judging takes place on Friday 26th April 2019, all committee members are welcome to attend.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.35 to allow for public participation

Signed.....Date.....

DS/18/118 Public Participation

DA/18/118.1 Maggie Richens said she wrote the letter to the journal referenced in agenda item 15, swans on the Lake. She also reported that on Westbury Road, the protected verge, at the base of Arn Hill, is being mown, when as a protected verge it should not be mown.

DA/18/118.2 Harriet James commented that the Town Plan contains the aspiration that rather to rely on the Wiltshire wide sustainability plan, the aim was to develop a sustainability plan for Warminster. She advised that the Sustainable Warminster Group would like to assist in producing such a plan.

DA/18/18.3 Corel Gregory was concerned about the swans in the park and said the job advert for temporary boats staff made no mention of protecting wildlife.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.45

The Chairman proposed bringing forward items 14 for discussion and the committee agreed unanimously

DS/18/119 Swans on the Lake

The Assistant Town Clerk updated the meeting with information from the RSPB and The Swan Sanctuary, a charity with over 100 years' experience of caring for swan welfare. The Swan Sanctuary advised that if the nesting female's mate has disappeared/been killed; she is quite capable of rearing the cygnets alone. People often worry that nesting females will starve to death when they have lost their mates as they are scared to leave their nests in search of food – this is incorrect. All female swans feast before nesting as they know food will be harder to come by once they are on the nest – it is normal for them to lose weight during the nesting period.

Cllr Nicklin proposed that the council support better protection of the wildlife and the island and that investigation and implementation of the exact measures would be delegated to the Clerk and Chairman. Action to be ratified at the next meeting, seconded Cllr Macfarlane, voting unanimous in favour.

It was noted that: Cllrs would prefer not to have bright buoys, and that the proposal would be circulated to the committee for comment before implementation.

DS/18/120 Reports from Unitary Authority Members

None.

DS/18/121 Clerk's Report: Town Park and Associated Land

The Clerk gave a verbal update. **This was Noted.** (A written copy is to be attached to the Minutes)

DS/18/122 Lake Pleasure Ground Play Area Repairs

Cllr Robbins proposed members retrospectively approve the repairs, seconded Cllr Macfarlane, voting in favour unanimous.

Signed.....Date.....

DS/18/123 Outdoor Gym

Members debated the merits of and the difference between an outdoor gym and a fitness trail.

Cllr Nicklin proposed that Officers be instructed to upgrade investigations into an outdoor gym and obtain three comparative quotes, seconded Cllr Fraser, voting 4 favour 2 against. Motion carried.

It was noted that implementation would have to be co-ordinated with work of the paddling pool.

DS/18/124 Tarmac Paths

Members debated the report and sought further advice from the Parks and Open Spaces Manager. The Clerk indicated that approximately £30,000 remained in the Lake Pleasure Grounds Budget that could be used for these works.

Cllr Robbins proposed that the work on areas rated risk level 7.5 or above in the report, i.e. 1, 4 and 5 be commenced and that the other work be held over if possible, to the next financial year, seconded Cllr Macfarlane, voting in favour unanimous.

DS/18/125 Street Sweeping

Cllr Nicklin proposed that investigations into improved street sweeping should be subsumed into the wider discussion about the transfer of services from Wiltshire Council, seconded Cllr Robbins, voting unanimous in favour.

DS/18/126 Paddling Pool in the Lake Pleasure Grounds

Cllr Nicklin proposed to set up a working group to consider how to progress the paddling pool project, seconded Cllr Brett, voting unanimous in favour.

Appointed to the working group were: The Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Cllr Brett, Cllr Macfarlane, Peter Hewitt.

DS/18/127 Consultation on the Paddling Pool and putting green area at Spring in the Park

Cllr Brett proposed to set up a working group to draw up a short survey to be conducted at Spring in the Park, seconded Cllr Robbins, voting unanimous in favour.

Appointed to the working group were: Cllr Brett, Peter Hewitt, and the Assistant Town Clerk.

DS/18/128 Request from sustainable Warminster

Cllr Nicklin proposed that it was agreed in principle to support the idea of planting in the Lake and that research be carried out to come up with a more detailed proposal to put to the committee, seconded Cllr Brett, voting unanimous in favour.

It was noted that careful consideration needs to be given to which plants are suitable given the depth of the Lake. Care also need to be taken to ensure the plants would not compromise health and safety.

Signed.....Date.....

DS/18/129 **Wiltshire Council Play Areas**
The update was Noted.

It was agreed that the play area working group would reconvene.

DS/18/130 **CIL Funding**

No new projects were proposed. It was suggested the CIL working group reconvene.

DS/18/131 **Protecting Council Property**

The report was Noted.

DS/18/132 **Communications**

None

Meeting ended: 9.20pm

Signed.....Date.....

