**MEETING OF THE RECREATION, PARKS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 8TH JULY 2024 AT 7.07PM**

**Present:**

Cllr U Arnold Cllr S Oldrieve

Cllr S Brooke Cllr L Robillard-Webb

Cllr E Kelly Cllr C West

Cllr H Mills Brown

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk

A member of the Residents Association

Cllr Burton

Two members of the public

*The meeting was chaired by Cllr Kelly.*

**RP&P.24/35 Apologies for Absence**:

None.

**RP&P.24/36 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:**

Cllr Oldrieve declared a personal interest in item RP&P.24/43 as a member of the Bowls club.

**\*\*Public Participation:**

A business representative questioned why the Town Council is proceeding with the Christmas Lights switch-on event on 7th December, which leaves no weekends available for trading with the lights on. The reputation of the Council with not supporting businesses is damaging. It is suggested that the carnival committee (who manage the supporting event) have not made any commitments as yet and no booking forms have been released.

A second business representative operating in the town, stated that late night Christmas shopping events are proposed to start on 29th November to encourage residents to come out and shop, however the lack of any Christmas lights at these events is disappointing.

Cllr Burton explained that a full trawl of business views had not been undertaken. Five businesses were upset about the decision to proceed with the original lights switch-on date of 7th December and referred to several closed trading units within the town.

Cllr Arnold advised those present that concerned business representatives were invited to the Bovey Tracey Carnival meeting on 24th June, but no representatives attended.

**RP&P.24/37 Minutes**:

i) The minutes of the meeting of 28th May 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and approved (*\*copy previously circulated*).

ii) There were no updates provided.

**RP&P.24/38 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergencies:**

Members noted the Council Declaration and embedded the climate emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

**RP&P.24/39 Friends of Mill Marsh Park (FoMMP):**

Members received and noted minutes of the FoMMP meeting held on 04.06.24 (*\*copy previously circulated*).

Cllr Brooke provided a verbal update on the format of the meetings and advised that the ‘South West in Bloom’ judging takes place on Tuesday 9th July 2024. FoMMP have been very supportive and representatives will attend the judging on the day.

**RP&P.24/40 St Johns Lane Car Park – Parking Issues:**

Members considered approving line marking to mitigate inconsiderate parking in St Johns Lane Car Park.  The Assistant Town Clerk provided a verbal update at the meeting, highlighting the issues that Bovey Tracey Football Club have experienced with penalty costs associated with failed contract waste collections as a consequence of inconsiderate parking.

**Resolved:** The Assistant Town Clerk to install a larger sign on the barrier and proceed with arranging the line marking of a hatched ‘no parking’ area up to a cost of £650.00.

**RP&P.24/41 Historic Vehicle Rally – Mill Marsh Park:**

Members considered a proposal from an exhibitor to exhibit vehicles for the benefit of charity in Mill Marsh Park. The Assistant Town Clerk provided further information at the meeting, explaining that the dates of 18th August and 22nd September have been proposed. Up to 50 vans will be exhibited, with a charity charge of £5 per exhibitor.

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**Resolved:** To approve the use of the park with the following conditions applied:

1. Use will be subject to the weather conditions allowing safe access
2. Entrance/exit to be marshalled for safe access/egress and also staggered arrival and departure times for exhibitors.
3. The exhibiting area to be limited to maintain access for other park users
4. Any damage caused to the park must be repaired by the organisers

**RP&P.24/42 Play Area Surfacing/Enhancements:**

Members received and considered approvingthe specification (CAD drawing) for the additional surfacing in the Play Area in Mill Marsh Park, following resolution FC.24/38 *(\*copy previously circulated).*

**Resolved:** To approve the specification as proposed.

**RP&P.24/43 Proposed 4th Tennis Court – Additional Parking (Recreation Ground):**

Members received a proposed plan to mitigate potential parking capacity concerns and considered granting in-principle support for the proposals (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:**  Support granted in-principle to the revised parking layout, excluding the proposed north overflow parking area on the recreation ground itself due to the potential risk of damage/injury to vehicles/individuals.

**RP&P.24/44 Matters brought forward by the Town Clerk & Councillors**: (*for information)*

**Cllr Robillard Webb** provided a verbal update around the Heathfield Play Area Redevelopment and advised members that a meeting is being held with St Catherine’s School on 19th July to discuss options for the relocation/expansion of the potential redeveloped play area.

**The Assistant Town Clerk** provided an update around the current Grounds Maintenance Tender process, advising that 9 companies have expressed an interest and the deadline for contract related questions is 8th July. Tenders will be collated for consideration by members for the next meeting.

**Cllr Brooke** referred to the correspondence from Teignbridge DC in relation to the Pre-Planning Enquiry for waylighting in Mill Marsh Park and advised that a light sensitivity assessment will be required to accompany any application and this may be cost prohibitive for the project. The Police have not supported the project as they would like to see the installation of higher-level lighting (*\*copy previously* circulated).

**The Assistant Town Clerk** advised members that an additional war memorial has been identified in the town cemetery and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will refurbish the existing lettering. A member of the Heritage Trust is also seeking a grant to re-fix the memorial. The Assistant Town Clerk also advised of the recent painting of the cemetery railings by the Probation Service.

**The Assistant Town Clerk** advised members that two letters of apology had been received along with two financial contributions in relation to recent graffiti in the Play Area (Mill Marsh Park).

**Cllr Oldrieve** advised members that a future discussion around the Council’s Policy of ‘No Mow May’ should be tabled for consideration.

**Cllr Arnold** raised concerns around the recent removal of swings in Mill Marsh Park Play Area. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that following an independent inspection, these were found to be a potential risk, so council staff arranged for their immediate removal.

**Cllr Brooke** advised members that the committee should formally consider the projects that are highlighted in the Council’s Strategic Plan and identify/agree resources to progress these in the future. Cllr Kelly to facilitate an informal discussion during the summer recess period.

**Cllr Robillard Webb** advised that a swing in Prince Rupert Way play area is being removed by Teignbridge DC due to corrosion. This will not be replaced.

**Cllr Kelly** suggested that a separate meeting is held to further discuss the Christmas Lights Switch-on date (attendees: Cllrs Arnold, Brooke, Kelly, Mills Brown and West).

Meeting Closed: 8.00pm