

Notes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington on 4 April 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Reed (Chair)
Councillors Lloyd and Stock-Williams.

Also present: Councillors James, Lithgow and Thorne

1. Apologies

Councillor Critchard

2. Dog Fouling

At the April 2018 meeting of the Council, Lyn Partridge-Webber and Addy Bloodworth of Wellington Action Group for Dogs (WAG) drew attention once again to the continuing problem of dog mess caused by irresponsible dog owners.

Although there was little direct action that the Town Council could take it was emphasised that dog owners were legally obliged to immediately remove their dogs' faeces from land to which the public has access.

Owners who did not pick up after their dogs could face a fixed penalty of £50, or prosecution, which could result in a fine up to £1,000. TDBC were the responsible enforcement authority and they encouraged anyone that had evidence of someone not picking up after their dog or who wished to report a heavily fouled area to fill out the "Report dog fouling" online form .

Resolved that:-

- (a) further publicity be given to the ability to report dog fouling to TDBC;
- (b) WAG be asked to inform TDBC of any dog fouling hot spots;
- (c) TDBC be asked to increase patrols by the Dog Warden(s) in and around Wellington;
- (d) further enquiries be made regarding the possibility of contracting the services of a Dog Warden

(Post meeting note: TDBC have responded to say "I am aware that you have had an ongoing problem with dog fouling in the Wellington area and am disappointed to hear it is getting worse.

The dog warden service is currently contracted out to The Somerset Dog Warden Service based at St Giles Kennels but they are only contracted for the collection of strays. Fouling complaints and patrols are carried out by our pest control officer when she has time. Patrols for dog fouling are normally complaint driven and we patrol the areas where we have received intelligence about dog fouling and when it might be occurring.

Unfortunately since Christmas we have been unable to carry out any patrols for dog fouling due to the very high demand we have been receiving for the pest control service. This is an income generating service and has had to take priority.

If you are considering buying in extra dog warden services then I would recommend you speak to The Somerset Dog Warden Service as I know this is something they have carried out in West Somerset”.

3. Emptying of Dog Bins

The DLO would once again be providing a dog bin emptying service for those bins in the Town Council's ownership. The rate would be £3.42 + vat per bin per visit. There are 31 bins in town, 8 of which the Town Council pay for. They are emptied twice a week.

It was noted that TDBC had informed us that they would not be providing any further bins. The cost of the supply and installation of a dog bin was around £350 plus vat.

Resolved that the quotation for emptying those dog bins provided by the Town Council be accepted.

4. Town Centre Seating

The Council last year agreed to support the project to provide seating in and around the town. £2,000 had been made available annually to cover the cost of installing up to two new public seating units each year together with their ongoing maintenance. The sites and seating design were to be selected each year by the committee. Seats were provided last year in Longforth Road and the entrance to North Street car park. It was suggested that there be an opportunity for people to sponsor the seats.

Resolved that:-

- (a) seats be provided during 2018/19 in Mantle Street (at the entrance to the Medical Centre) and in North Street (close to the WHERE centre).
- (b) sponsorship of the seats be encouraged.

5. Grit Bins

During the recent cold weather a request was received for a grit bin in Jasmine Gardens, Cades Farm.

Enquiries had been made of the County Council (Highways) who had always provided bins in the past. They had stated that the County Council's Policy regarding grit bins these days was that they do not provide them, they only fill them with a salt/grit mixture.

The Town Council had provided the odd one here and there in the past. In view of the County's policy to no longer provide bins the Committee felt that, subject to need, the Town Council should provide them in future. If any decision was made to become the provider of grit bins in the future it would be best to take an overall look at where they should go rather than respond to individual requests as and when they arise.

Resolved that:-

- (a) the Town Council consider requests in the future for providing up to two grit bins per year in suitable locations;
- (b) bins be provided in Jasmine Gardens and Springfield Road.

6. Defibrillators

At the January Council meeting Councillor Barr asked that a defibrillator be purchased and installed in a suitable location in Rockwell Green. It was explained

that it would first be necessary to identify a suitable site with a power supply and be clear about where it is going, who would be responsible for maintaining it and who would pay for its installation and the power it used.

The Town Council have already provided a defibrillator in Longforth Road and grant aided the Sports Federation to provide one in North Street car park.

Resolved that:-

(a) subject to obtaining the owner's permission a defibrillator be placed in a suitable location at the Rockwell Green Christian Fellowship;

(b) the location of other defibrillators in the town be established and statistics be obtained regarding their use.

7. Grass Cutting and Roadside Weedkilling

The Town Council would once again be paying for an additional three cuts during the season. The cost last year was £1,175.48 per cut and it was anticipated that it would be a similar sum this year. The DLO had been asked to confirm the cost and also the time frame when the cuts would be carried out so that they could be monitored.

The cost of roadside weed killing this year would be £1,000 per spray.

Resolved that the Town Council continue to contribute to the provision of these services and the quotations for 2018/19 be agreed.

8. Tonedale Play Area

This was an area owned by the Town Council. The cost of grass cutting during the summer months this year had been quoted by the DLO at £63 per cut.

Resolved that the quotation be accepted.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.