

Notes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington on 18 July 2015 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Councillors Barr, Critchard, Lloyd and Reed.

Also present: Councillor James

1. Appointment of Chairman

Councillor Reed

2. Apologies

Councillor Stock-Williams

3. Longforth Road Public Conveniences

Now that the decision had been taken by Council to transfer ownership of the public conveniences from TDBC to WTC it was suggested that the more detailed issues that would follow be now considered and decided upon to this Committee.

Sally McVay, Notary Public, had been appointed to act for the Council in the transfer of the facility.

Consideration was given to how the facility was to be managed, the arrangements for cleaning and maintenance and how best to use the transfer "pot" the Council would receive from TDBC.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the appointment of Sally McVay be confirmed;

(b) the DLO continue to carry out the cleaning and maintenance for the time being on the terms and conditions previously agreed.

4. Tonedale Play Area

(a) Overhanging Tree

It was reported that Mark Holloway the TDBC Arboricultural Manager had received a complaint from a tenant at Stoneleigh whose property backed onto the Play Area owned by the Town Council. There is a large Ash located within the open space which is overhanging the rear garden, the tree had branches which were long and over extended, so there was a risk of failure. To alleviate the risk he recommended these be removed. The cost would be £155+VAT.

(b) Play Area

The opportunity was taken to discuss further the existing arrangements for collecting and removing litter from the Play Area and surrounding public open space. It was part of the Town Clerk's job description to undertake weekly inspections of the play equipment and to collect the litter. It was apparent that this situation needed to be reviewed.

RESOLVED that in the event of a Community Warden or similar arrangement being in place these duties be undertaken by them. In the meantime the Deane DLO be asked to submit a quotation for the cost of collecting the litter on a weekly basis.

5. Town Centre Seating

Councillor Thorne had indicated that it had been drawn to his attention that people with difficulty walking but who did not use mobility scooters, did not have many seats to sit on when in the town centre. Although it started as a 'town centre' issue, he had since been thinking it should be wider than that, particularly given the accent these days on healthy living styles. Councillor Thorne had offered to map out the existing sites and some proposed ones.

RESOLVED that the suggested mapping exercise be carried out and the matter be considered again after that had been done.

6. Cleaning of Bus Shelters

In anticipation of the eventual appointment of a Community Warden it was suggested that consideration be given to discontinuing the long standing arrangement for the cleaning of bus shelters. This appeared to be a good time for both the Council and its Contractor to bring this particular partnership to an end.

RESOLVED that the existing arrangement with Hinewood to clean bus shelters be discontinued. In the meantime the condition of the shelters and surrounding areas be monitored and if necessary, action be taken to clean and clear them of encroaching vegetation.

7. Town Guide

The 2016 version of the Town Guide had recently been produced and distributed. Feedback had been very positive. The Guide was produced, free of charge to the Council, annually by The Edge.

RESOLVED that the arrangement for The Edge to produce the Town Guide continue.

8. Car Park Notice Boards

The problem with Notice Boards of this nature was that as soon as they had been put in place they became out of date. Initially the Boards were arranged in conjunction with Richard Coupe. They now need to be updated and it was understood that he would be talking to the Wellington Business Association regarding ongoing responsibility.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and action taken to update the Notice Boards.

9. Dog Fouling

This continued to be a problem. Members were reminded of the current arrangements for the placing of dog bins and the cost to the Council. We were very fortunate to be able to work with W.A.G. who, despite reduced members, were doing all they could to promote responsible dog ownership.

Councillor Barr reported a need for a dog bin to be placed in Dobree Park.

It was reported that TDBC recently held a Dog Action Day in Wellington but unfortunately this Council were not aware of it until after the event.

RESOLVED that the cost of a dog bin (and collection from it) be investigated further

10. Grass Cutting

The initial cuts this year were of a very poor standard and concern had been expressed to the DLO. The Town Council were paying for an additional three cuts during the season so hopefully this would improve the appearance of the area.

RESOLVED that the situation continue to be monitored.

The meeting ended at 11.40 p.m.