

Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 April 2013 at 7pm in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham on Sea.

Present Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Jones, Cllr Ms Lawson, Cllr Mrs Burge, Cllr Smout and Cllr Young.
Mrs D Emery – Town Clerk, Mrs L Brewer – Admin Assistant
Cllrs Miss Parkin and Groves were not members of this committee but had registered to speak on agenda items.

14/13/TIC Apologies and Declarations of Interest
Apologies were received accepted from:

- Cllr Clarke (Business)
 - Cllr Davey (Unwell)
- Cllr Miller had been called into work, his apologies were given after the meeting.

Cllr Nicholls declared an 'Other' Interest in item 7 on the agenda, which involved a letter from his employer.

15/13/TIC Complaints about Dog Fouling

Cllr Miss Parkin had registered to speak on this and made the following points:

- There were two Dog Wardens covering the whole of Sedgemoor.
- The Dog Wardens hours were 9 – 5 Monday to Friday.
- Both of the Dog Wardens had been seen together at one time – surely a waste of resources!
- Most dog walkers were out before 9am and after 5pm and most certainly at weekends.
- Concerns about Children being infected and a decline of tourism.
- The problem was now worse than it had been 20 years ago.
- Could members consider a sympathetic, dog friendly way of dealing with the problem?

Members considered these comments and the letter from a resident.

- It was recognised that this was a problem throughout Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, including Apex Park and the recreation ground, where the pitch had to be cleared before matches could take place.
- Sedgemoor District Council was responsible for street cleaning and emptying dog waste bins.
- Could dog waste bags be provided by the bins?
- Could the wardens give out fines to offenders?
- Owners were no longer required to buy a dog licence.
- Could dogs be kept on leads in the parks and beach?

Action

Cllr Smout PROPOSED a meeting with Sedgemoor District Council, Graham Newing (Beach Warden), BiARS, Police, Burnham and Highbridge Chambers of Trade and this Committee – to seek a solution to the , as well as publicising the problem to make dog owners aware of the nuisance they are causing. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Burge, all members voted in favour.
The Clerk would investigate to see how other town councils dealt with this problem .

16/13/TIC Removal of Chevrons on Highbridge Road

Cllr Miss Groves had registered to speak and made the following points:

- Following several accidents and a fatality at this location, Somerset County Council had placed Chevrons at the bend, to highlight the danger.
- Somerset County Council had now removed the signs, stating that they were no longer effective as they were damaged.
- Residents and members of the public were very concerned that motorists would not be aware of the sharpness of the bend, which would result in having accidents.
- Please could members object to this removal and consider a review of the signage?

Action Members considered these points and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Nicholls that the Clerk write to Highways to request they reconsider the removal of the Chevrons, this was seconded by Cllr Young, all members voted in favour.

17/13/TIC Outstanding Items as handed to the new Town Clerk

Action **Jubilee Trees** - the Clerk would organise the ordering and planting of the tree donated in recognition of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Railway Buffers – the Committee would wait for the project organisers to progress this.

Dog Bins – this would be incorporated with the Press Campaign, (minute no. 1513TIC). The Clerk reminded members that the budget for emptying the bins, for next year had not been increased, and that the increase would need to come from earmarked reserves, and there was no more funding in budget for 2013/14.

Action Members also considered placing signs by the dog bins e.g. "Burnham/Highbridge welcomes Responsible Dog Owners". The Clerk to investigate the cost of signs.

Action **Welcome Boards** – the Clerk would double check the quote for the posts of the existing welcome signs at Queen's Drive and Huntspill Road, to be refurbished. The new signs would be ordered and installed at these locations and the new location at Berrow triangle.

RLT 2 – Stilings Close/Talbot Close – Sedgemoor District Council would check the play areas and possibly replace equipment in 2014.

RLT 3 – Members NOTED that the plans for the Highbridge Hotel include a MUGA, and asked how the MUGA would be managed? The Town Council would await the outcome of the planning application. The £20,000 would remain in earmarked reserves until the planning application had been decided.

Esplanade Lighting – Members looked forward to the trial coloured lights that had been ordered.

Action **You Are Here Boards** – the Clerk reported that the quotations for updating these boards would be £190 over budget. Members AGREED to transfer £200 from Miscellaneous Improvements budget, to cover this cost, the Clerk would action this.

18/13/TIC Town Clock Walling Enhancement

Action Members considered the planned design for the new wall in front of the Highbridge Clock. The Clerk would contact Bridgwater College to ask if they would be interested in carrying out the project.

19/13/TIC Traffic Orders – Burnham-on-Sea

Members considered the amended orders and had no objections. The Clerk had received a complaint from one member of the public, and the Clerk had explained to them the process, and where to write to register their concerns.

20/13/TIC Parking Issues in Hudson Street and Abingdon Street, Burnham-on-Sea

The parking issues in Hudson Street had been discussed many times before and there was no easy solution to the parking problems in this narrow street. On the question of Abingdon Street being made 'one way' members considered this was a matter for trained highway officers to deal with, although they acknowledged if Abingdon Street were to be made One Way, this may create problems elsewhere.

Action It was PROPOSED by Cllr Smout and seconded by Cllr Mrs Burge that the Clerk would write to Ms Munt MP, Somerset Highways and the resident who had raised these issues, to explain that the Town Council did not have responsibility for highway matters and relied on the expertise of trained officers at Somerset Highways for guidance on such matters.

21/13/TIC Civic Award Nominations

Members AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting of the Committee.

22/13/TIC Date of the next Meeting

Members NOTED the next meeting of this committee was to be held on Wednesday 29 May 2013 at The Old Courthouse.

There being no more business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30pm.