

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ASSETS, FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JULY 2020 AT 11AM

PRESENT Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman)
 Councillor Julie Baker
 Councillor Peter Banks
 Councillor Dave Bragg
 Councillor Carl Powling
 Councillor Sylvia Wargent
 Councillor Sophie Weaver
 Councillor John Akker

IN ATTENDANCE Petra Palfreyman (Town Clerk)
 1 member of the public

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL (CORONAVIRUS ACT Part 2020 1 Section 78 Regulations 2 – 17)

20/020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

20/021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

20/022 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR. Matters arising have been covered by the Task Tracker.

20/023 TO REVIEW THE RUNNING BUDGET AND DECIDE ANY FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED IN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET

The Running Budget shows that Assets, Facilities & Environment is well within budget after 3 months. It was noted that the Council had agreed to vire £2000 of the ANPR budget over to the security upgrade under Rushmere Close and £2000 towards the Covid-19 upgrades for the library car park toilets. Of the items included in the 2020/21 budget, and not already covered by actions within the task tracker, the only item needing attention at this time is the Melrose Road boiler (possible replacement) – Councillor Powling agreed to take a look at the controls to see if they are working correctly. A decision on replacement to be raised at future meetings when we have more information.

20/024 TO CARRY OUT 3 MONTH REVIEW OF THE SKIPPERS GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that both she and Boz were happy with the quality of work carried out by Skippers. The committee were unanimous in agreeing that the contract should continue beyond the trial period.

20/025 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON POSITION WITH COAST ROAD RE-FIT TENDER AND THE TOILETS MAINTENANCE TENDER. TENDERS CLOSE 31ST JULY. OUTLINE LATEST POSITION ON COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL GRANT

Councillor reported that there had been considerable interest expressed in both contracts. 12 companies were interested in the re-fit and 5 in the maintenance contract. Any tenders will be reviewed early August and a short list prepared for further scrutiny. The promised grant of £30,000 from Colchester Borough Council for the re-fit has been received.

20/026 TO DECIDE ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE TREE SEAT IN SENSORY GARDEN AND THE TREE SEAT AROUND THE LIME TREE ON CHURCH GREEN

Adam Ferretti has reported that the seat around the Sensory Garden tree cannot be extended – Boz will remove and keep for possible future use. A new seat is likely to cost £2000 – include in 2021/2 budget proposals. Councillor Powling to approach the Rotary Club of Mersea Island to see if they would like to contribute to the cost. The seat around the lime tree on Church Green is in need of repair or replacement – include £1500 in next year's budget.

20/027 TO REVISIT THE REPLACEMENT OF THE KOMPAN SLIDE AT WELLHOUSE PLAY AREA AND TO DISCUSS OTHER AREAS HIGHLIGHTED IN LATEST ROSPA REPORT

It was proposed by Councillor Akker and seconded by Councillor Powling with all in favour that we should not proceed with the Kompan replacement slide but instead accept a quotation from Playquip for the supply and fit of a second hand refurbished steel slide, plus repair of soft pour areas and pathways, as recommended in a recent RoSPA report. Total cost £1495 + VAT.

20/028 TO REVIEW THE TASK TRACKER

All items reviewed – Task Tracker will be updated.

20/029 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

This to be announced later.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Minutes prepared by Councillor Jenkins.