

Minutes of a meeting of the **PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **1st** day of **JUNE 2010** at **6.30 p.m.**

Present:	Cllr Mrs S Bailey	Chair
	Cllr Mrs M Govier	
	Cllr E Sherrell	
	Cllr E Sanders	
	Cllr P Sanders	D Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D Sellis	
	Cllr J Sellis	
	Cllr H Smith	Chair F&GP
	Cllr B Trew	
Cllr D Whitcomb	Mayor	

In Attendance: Town Clerk
Works Superintendent
One member of the Press

022. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

023. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillors were reminded that this item allowed the Chairman to receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If they became aware, during the course of a meeting of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item they must immediately disclose it. They may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is prejudicial. A personal interest is prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that is likely to prejudice the councillors judgement of the public interest and it relates to a financial or regulatory matter.

024. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20th April 2010, previously circulated and adopted by Council on 27th April 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

025. MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the Action Log for the Properties Committee.

026. WORKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Members noted the report. The following points were raised:

a. Parking of cars on the Meadows by the Tennis Club. It was confirmed that no cars had permission to park on the Meadows and letters would be written to the Tennis Club and Bowls Club to tell them to stop this practice.

b. The officers concerned were congratulated on the work towards a rationalisation of utility billing and the expected savings.

c. The Tour Of Britain. Members all agreed that the Tour would be of great benefit to the town, and was a prestigious event that had a proven record of excellent advertising for the venue. As part of the Town Council role was to promote the town, Members unanimously **RECOMMENDED** setting aside up to £10,000 for incidental expenses in arranging the event.

d. Spend to Save measures in the Market. Members agreed that the plans put forward to improve cleaning and rubbish disposal in the Market were both welcome from a financial point of view and would improve the carbon footprint for the Council. They **RECOMMENDED** that the £12,000 requested be granted to purchase the two units.

e. Members were given an update on the BMX track, and that work would commence on the fencing to screen the Bowls Club in the next 2 weeks.

027. MARKET REEVE'S REPORT

Members noted the report. The Reeve had ordered the battery bin and when full would be recycled. Again this would help the Council carbon footprint.

028. TOWN HALL MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the report.

029. DOG FOULING IN MEADOWS

Members noted we had received complaints from members of the public concerning dog fouling in and around the play park equipment in the Meadows, and it was suggested that the children's play area is fenced off and dogs banned within it. They say this would also improve safety for young children with regard to the river and canal. Cllr Sherrell reminded Members that previously the policy of the Council has been not to fence in any part of the Meadows open space as it would spoil the vista. The problem was caused by irresponsible dog owners, but he asked that the open space concept be maintained. Cllr Trew had previously championed fencing as it was the norm for play parks, but he had been out-voted. He proposed that we investigate the provision of a 1 to 1½ metre fence but got no seconder. Cllr P Sanders felt we should ask the dog warden to attend the Meadow more often and prosecute such anti-social behaviour. Cllr Mrs Govier thought that council staff could control dog fouling and was told that recent legislation allowed a parish council to enforce a dog control order made by its principal authority by issuing fixed penalty notices, but only once the staff had been on government approved training courses, and nominated as 'authorised officers' by the council. There were also legal representation implications should any case go to court. Members thought that the local police should also be reminded of the by-laws and help to enforce them. On a proposal by Cllr Sellis Members then **RECOMMENDED** that we go down the dog warden and police route.

030. WHITCHURCH PLAY PARK

Members noted that we have had a deputation from Whitchurch residents asking for more play equipment in the Whitchurch play area. We currently provide a triple swing and a toddler slide, plus soccer goals. We have but £5,000 in the budget for play equipment this financial year. We are investigating grants and section 106 money but with no success as yet. The deputation has been asked to check the new play area at Courtlands to see exactly what sort of equipment they

might like, and to try to form a 'Friends of Whitchurch' Group to aid fund raising. Cllr Mrs Govier thought that the Whitchurch Primary School PTA might be invited to help form the 'Friends' group. There was also some £19,000 left over from the Meadows path refurbishment that she felt could be spent on play equipment. It was then **RECOMMENDED** that we encourage consultation and the 'Friends' group, and get some indicative plans for equipment.

031. SIGNS AT COURT GATE

Cllr P Sanders and Cllr Mrs Govier declared personal interests as members of WDBC. Members noted that the TIC had submitted alternative ' I ' signs for Members approval as landowners. It was felt that these designs were much better than the original concept objected to by Members, and it was **RECOMMENDED** that they were accepted.

032. TOWN CLOCK

Noted that we have had a report from our current clock maintainers that the auto wind mechanism (installed in 2000) is unreliable and not powerful enough. They cannot source spare parts, and recommend replacement at a cost of £3,200. We are investigating other clock experts for quotes but the Clerk asked Members to be aware that the clock is a long standing problem. Cllr Trew was puzzled over the criticism, and wondered what the problem was. Was it the motor or the gearing? Perhaps only part needed to be replaced at less cost. Members felt that the clock was a community asset and perhaps other groups should be involved. The matter would be brought back to the next cycle of meetings.

033. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Mrs Govier asked about the Town Hall floor, and was told that replacement was not urgent and could be consider at the next budget setting. In the meantime a health and safety check would be undertaken.

Rising 7.22 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....