

Minutes of a meeting of the **PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **8th** day of **DECEMBER 2009** at **6.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr J Sellis V Chair in the Chair
Cllr Mrs S Bailey
Cllr Mrs M Govier Mayor
Cllr R Pike
Cllr E Sanders
Cllr E Sherrell
Cllr Mrs D Sellis
Cllr H Smith Chair F&GP
Cllr D Whitcomb D Mayor

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

368. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Best and Cllr B Trew.

369. 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.

370. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20th October 2009, previously circulated and adopted by Council on 27th October 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

371. MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the Action Log for the Properties Committee.

a. Advertising Boards at Pixon Lane. Minute 177 referred. Subject was still open and awaiting responses from the users of Crelake Barracks.

b. Land at Abbotsfield. Briefing pack had been sent to all local residents, and two meetings already held with local residents. Six responses received so far, plus an expression of interest from owner of the Nursing Home. We continue to work with the Land Registry to formalise the ownership details of both areas. Research of old minutes reveals that when Abbotsfield was sold in 1983, a small area was reserved by the Parish Council as a 'play area', and its

location from the rest of the estate was at the discretion of the actual purchasers of Abbotsfield. The matter was deferred until the next cycle of meetings.

c. **Archway Shop.** Negotiations with WDBC continued, but they have asked for a 30-year lease without break clauses. This was unusual enough to put to Members for a decision. We had in the past allowed long leases without break clauses (125 years for the old Unigate building, 999 years for the Wharf, 25 years for the Tennis Club) but they were part of special financial deals. Members were against a 30-year lease and felt that we had to be cautious as the Unitary concept was still being considered and funding was at risk. They were reluctant to agree to any lease at this time, but negotiations needed to be tailored to our needs with break points and rent reviews. Members **RECOMMENDED** *nem con* that we ask for some monthly rental for the currently empty building as it was 'reserved' for the TIO move expected in February/March 2010, and while the unitary matter was resolved.

372. **MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH DOWN SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2009.

373. **WORKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Members noted the report. Cllr Whitcomb asked if the BMX group had received any funding, and was told they had merely identified possible funders. Cllr Mrs Sellis reported that a dog owner had complained to her of tarmac on her dogs paws from the resurfacing work in the meadows. The Works Superintendent confirmed that the dog should not have been off the lead in the Meadows, and that appropriate safety precautions had been undertaken by SW Highways. The Mayor read out a letter of thanks from the Crowndale Trust for the work undertaken in planting their trees. A work placement student from Chelfham School would commence on the 10th December.

374. **MARKET REEVE'S REPORT**

Members noted the report.

375. **TOWN HALL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members noted the report.

376. **ASSISTANT TO TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

A new innovation welcomed by Members, who felt that the general content would better be on the Finance and General Purposes Committee agenda.

377. **USE OF WHITCHURCH DOWN ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Members had seen letters in the press about noise from the Tavy 7 road race on the Down during the Remembrance Day services. A letter from the organiser was circulated. Plasterdown Parish Council had also complained to the organisers about the noise, disruption and litter. Members generally felt that it was inappropriate to hold such events on Remembrance Sunday, and wanted to encourage them to use the preceding or following Sundays. Plasterdown Parish Council had commended any such action as this was a significant issue. The Mayor warned Members to consider with care as the Tavy 7 race was a significant event and well supported nationally. Their racing calendar was also restricted. It was felt that the club might look at changing their event with another venue that did not have such an effect on local villages, reducing the

numbers or starting later in the day. By 6 votes for and 1 against it was **RECOMMENDED** to inform the club that we did not wish them to hold the event on Remembrance Sunday and would welcome them suggesting alternative dates.

378. TOWN CLOCK

A report from our clock maintainers that the 'strike' and 'quarters' mechanism is broken was circulated. Members felt that the chimes were an old and valued tradition and **RECOMMENDED** the approval of the £1,088 cost of repair.

379. DOG BINS

A Year ago Members were asked for more dog bins at the access to Whitchurch Down from Westmoor Park, the cut from Down Road to Whitchurch Down and the top of Down Road (near the cattle grid). Members supported the request in principle, but felt it did not go far enough and the whole town should be looked at for such facilities. Members agreed to defer the matter to a later meeting in order to better define the locations and number required. Since then we have been approached by a MOP who asked for dog bins in the centre of the town, and whose request had already been refused by WDBC. Costs were estimated at £200 per bin, and about £1.50 per emptying. So far we only provided dog bins on land that we owned. Cllr Pike was opposed to providing dog bins in the town centre, as it was clearly a WDBC responsibility. Cllr Mrs Sellis was concerned about hygiene matters and problems with collecting the waste and disposing of it. It was up to dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and to clear up after them. There were no dog fouling regulations applying to the Moor. Members did not feel that dog fouling was a problem in the town centre anyway. They **RECOMMENDED** that we take no action.

380. GOOSE FAIR

Members noted an income and expenditure statement for Goose Fair 2009 and that several items had increased in cost since last year (WDBC Cleaning up by £777, buses up by £775, our manpower costs up by £4,000 to cope with TTC staff manning all roads, junctions and undertaking parking cone work). It was noted that the waste collecting was a 'green' charge, as recycling bins had been provided for the first time. They made a vote of thanks to the Works department for another successful Fair.

381. BUS SHELTERS

Noted that Devon County Council were planning to introduce a new bus shelter outside Westbridge Cottages on Plymouth Road. The new shelter would match the existing blue shelter installed by the Town Council on the opposite side of the road. The new shelter had been requested by local residents who had put together a petition of approximately 50 signatures in support, and it also had the support of the local County Councillor who thanked the residents for their actions. We would take over responsibility for maintenance of the shelter as we had done in the past with DCC erected shelters.

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

There was no such business

Signed.....

Rising 7. 15 p.m.

Dated.....