

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

4th November 2008

PRESENT Councillors: V.Redpath (Chairman)
L.Clark
M.Dolan
Mrs.J.Hazel
A.R.Nicholls
Mrs.L.A.K.Nicholls
Ms.J.Russell

Apologies from Cllrs: Mrs.A.Daymond & B.Mortimer

Also in attendance: Mrs.V.Bright, Town Clerk and Mrs.J.Gaskell, Assistant to the Town Clerk.

Public: 9

179/08 Declarations of Interest.

None.

180/08 Allotment Sub Committee Report.

A report had been circulated to all Members and was presented at the meeting by the Chairman, who was also on the Sub-Committee. The report covered: the law governing the provision of allotments; size of allotments; local demographic profile; local demand; allotments provided in other areas; availability of land in Verwood and Three Legged Cross; land owned by other authorities; land costs; alternative schemes, which include adopt-a-garden scheme, private allotments and mutual schemes; conclusions and recommendations. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted and the following recommended actions be carried out to comply with the Town Councils duty to provide allotments:

1. Continue to investigate and actively pursue the possibility of renting land owned by EDDC or DCC.
2. Continue to look for land to rent from the private sector. We feel that outright purchase is not an option as prices are already artificially high and we are prohibited from speculating on land.
3. Support the setting up of alternative schemes by interested groups (e.g. garden share), but not administer them. Encourage interested groups to form an association to investigate sources of funding which are not open to the Town Council and work in partnership with them.
4. Take legal advice from EDDC on the possibility of appropriation or compulsory purchase.
5. Lobby for section 106 agreements to be set up under future local plans which allow developer contributions to be collected for allotments.
6. Assume that, if we succeed, the provision of allotments must be cost neutral (covered by rents).

181/08 Cemetery – Clerk’s Report.

a) **Min 111/08 (a) & 36/08(a) Consecration of Cemetery land.** The Clerk informed members that the consecration was carried out by Bishop George Browning on Thursday 30th October 2008.

b) **Min.112/08 Memorial Testing in Verwood Cemetery.** The provision for the memorial testing will be an inclusion in the estimates of expenditure for the next financial year 2009/2010.

c) **Min. 111/08 (b) & 35/08 (b) Fly tipping.** The Assistant to the Town Clerk has been opening and closing the Cemetery over the last few weeks and has been paid overtime and petrol. Members were asked to consider if they want this to continue or consider alternative options? Much discussion took place after which the Clerk was asked to obtain costings for three different options, these being: pedestrian gate; height restriction entrance; metal posts to narrow the entrance so that only cars can gain access.

182/08 Items to be put forward for inclusion in estimates of expenditure for the Cemetery for 2009/10

Proposed budgets for 2009/2010 were copied to members which included expenditure for last year and money spent to date on each of the budgets. Discussion took place on the items to be considered and it was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED that Finances and General Purposes Committee be requested to include the following items in estimates for the year commencing 1st April 2009.

General Rates	£200
Grave Markers	£820
Cemetery Maintenance	£7,210
Water	£100
Memorial Testing	£1,500

183/08 Cemetery estimates of expenditure for 2009/10

The current scale of charges for the Verwood Cemetery was copied to all members. Consideration was given and after discussion it was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee be requested that the following charges be raised from 1st April 2008.

	Town Resident	Non Resident
Plots only	£105	£435
Burial Fees	£75	£350
Cremation Plot	£75	£350
Cremation additional burial	£60	£120
Monuments – Burial	£75	£150
Cremation	£65	£130
Inscription	£30	£55
Plaque	£65	£130

184/08 Recreation Ground & Open Spaces – Clerk's Report

a) **Min 113/08 (a) & 36/08 (a) Tree Planter.** The Clerk reported after consultation with Dorset County Council and the Utility companies that it would not be possible for a tree to be planted in this area. After discussion it was agreed that the two pots in front of the Town Council Offices could be placed on this site. The Clerk was asked if similar pot could be found and have them installed as soon as possible.

- b) **Min. 113/08 (b) & 36/08 (b).** It was reported that the old picnic bench had been revamped and had been installed at Charlottes Place. This was noted.
- c) **Min.113/08(c) & 37/08 Litter Bins.** The steel litter bin is still in place even though an attempt had been made to set fire to it. This was noted.
- d) **Min. 113/08 (d) & 38/08 (a)** The clearing of the Mares Tail has now begun. This was noted.
- e) A request has been made for a seat to be erected in the vicinity of Coronation Road/Moorlands Road for the benefit of the elderly residents who live in that area. The land is believed to be in the ownership of East Dorset District Council. After much discussion it was agreed that the request should be passed on to East Dorset District Council as the owner of the land.
- f) The Clerk had emailed a copy of a report by the Ferndown Town Council's Chief Executive on the Ferndown Lengthsman scheme. Some discussion took place on a report by East Dorset District Council on this matter and it was agreed that no action would be taken at this time but this matter would be kept under review.

185/08 Correspondence.

- a) **Verwood & Three Legged Cross Twinning Association** wrote asking permission for a Companion Dog Show to be held in the Verwood Recreation Ground. The Verwood Memorial Ground Trustees are aware of this request and had given their approval. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk write that the Town Council have no objections and give their permission for the Dog Show to take place on the Verwood Recreation Ground, with the usual conditions.

186/08 Recreation Ground & Open Spaces – items of expenditure for inclusion in estimates for 2009/10.

Proposed budgets for 2009/2010 were copied to members which included expenditure for last year and money spent to date on each of the budgets. Discussion took place on the items to be considered and it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee be requested to include the following items in estimates for the year commencing 1st April 2009.

Maintenance of Open Spaces	£ 7,210
Hanging Baskets/Planters	£10,300
Maint. of Verwood Recreation Ground	£ 6,180
Maint. of Memorial Stone	£ 150
Maint. of Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground	£ 5,150
Maint. of Play Areas	£ 8,755
Casual Labour	£ 5,000

187/08 Other reports and items for future agendas.

- a) Thanks were given to the Chairman of the Committee for his work in collating the Allotments report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

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Chairman