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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON 5 JUNE 2018 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Cole – In the Chair
Cllrs Benner, Gallagher & Montague.
Voting Members: 4

David Allison - Clerk
Ryan Bennett – Administrative Assistant

EA1382/18 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Collingwood, Edmunds, Kaur & Vassiliou.

EA1383/18 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA1384/18 Representations from the Public
There were no members of the public present.

EA1385/18 Minutes
Members had no comments regarding the minutes.
Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 April 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

EA1386/18 Matters Arising
EA1371/18 / EA1379/18 – Youth Project - Cllr Cole informed members that he had learnt that the local churches would be willing to contribute to the progression of the Youth Project.

EA1387/18 Works List
Members had no comments regarding the works list. The Clerk advised that he would circulate the Annual Works Schedule for member's information. He added that this Agenda item in future can then be used for noting any particular variations.
Resolved:

- That the Works List for April 2018 is noted.

EA1388/18 Weston Wood –Installation of Posts and Rails
The Chairman opened the item and referred members to the two quotes that had been supplied to them. The Clerk advised members that he would recommend that Cllrs agree to the quote supplied by Cyril Smith Fencing Ltd. Members noted that the posts supplied by Cyril Smith were slightly smaller in size than those quoted by R Taylor & Sons but this would not be of any significant detriment. A Cllr made comment that the steel bollards, which had been quoted for, may look slightly out of character with the natural surroundings. They suggested that the steel bollards be substituted for wooden ones to compliment the rails and the surrounding area. There was agreement amongst those present that wooden bollards would be more appropriate for the location.

Resolved:

- That the fencing is installed by Cyril Smith Fencing Ltd subject to the replacement of the steel bollards as quoted with those of wooden material.
- That the Clerk will finalise the price up to a total cost of £2000, with a view to taking the matter to the Finance & Administration committee to agree funding.

EA1389/18 Renewal of Gate into Stones Orchard from The Green

The Chairman opened the item and drew member's attention to the relevant supporting papers. He informed members that a Cllr who was not present held reservations over aligning the gate to match up with the tracks on the Green. The Clerk informed members that the decision had been made to remove the kissing gate which had been installed to deter vehicles such as mopeds from entering the site as there were plenty of other ways into the Orchard that someone could use to enter the site if they were determined to do so. It was asked whether a bollard was suitable for the site in question. It was noted that a gate could always be installed in replacement of the bollard in the future if the design proved not to be effective. It was mentioned that there was already a gap to the side of the gate that was well used by pedestrians and that the proposed design reflected that.

A Cllr asked if the replacement gate would help to deter any unwanted incursions into the Orchard. The Clerk commented that the new gate would be much more secure due to its newer age and improved condition and that new locks would also be used as a deterrent. It was noted by a Cllr that the Rangers have the most intimate knowledge of the site and that Cllrs should look to heed their advice where appropriate regarding its future maintenance.

There was agreement between Cllrs that they saw no reason to alter the design as submitted by the Senior Ranger and that installation should continue as outlined. Cllrs commented that the design will not discourage use of the space, and that it would be sensible to align the gate with the vehicular tracks on The Green which helps meet one of the aspirations of the Greenspace Action Plan for Stone's Orchard which had been submitted by Three Rivers District Council and the Countryside Management Service.

EA1390/18 *[The Clerk introduced an item under Standing Order 9.1.14]*Unauthorised Developments and Encampments Consultation

The Clerk informed those present that the Planning & Development committee had looked at the consultation documents in detail at their meeting on May 3 2018. He drew member's attention to the decision made by the committee that he, as the proper officer, will respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council. As a result the item was not originally included on the Agenda as there were only limited additions that the committee would be able to make. The Clerk added that the consultation deadline was June 15 and that he would circulate his response to the consultation to Cllrs at the appropriate time.

EA1391/18 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:33pm