

# MINUTES

**Committee:** Amenities Committee  
**Date:** Monday, 21 March 2016  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Younghayes Centre

## **Present**

Cllr Kevin Blakey  
Cllr Kim Bloxham (in the Chair)  
Cllr Nigel Grimshire  
Cllr Karen Jennings  
Cllr Rob Valkass

## **Also Present**

Cllr Phil Norgate  
Janine Gardner, Town Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council  
Cathy Hill, Administrative Assistant, Cranbrook Town Council (minuting)

## **A/16/9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Phil Tucker.

## **A/16/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

## **A/16/11 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 8 February 2016 were accepted as a correct record.

## **A/16/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No requests were made by members of the public to answer questions or give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda.

## **A/16/13 AMENITIES REPORT**

The latest version of the Amenities Report had been circulated and viewed by members. It was mentioned that two streetlights on Burrough Fields are incorrectly aligned and require adjustment and **it was resolved** to add this item to the Amenities Report.

## **A/16/14 HAYES SQUARE ANGLED KERBS**

Cllrs Bloxham, Gunn and West had visited the site and feedback had also been received from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. Although the original design had been checked and not found to be at fault, the Fire & Rescue Service had expressed that they would be unable to manoeuvre a fire engine around the Square due to parking of cars in the corners. Members noted that the Cranbrook Consortium & Infrastructure Project Manager had agreed to request a redesign and all members of the Committee were in agreement with this course of action. The Town Council would not re-consult with residents of Hayes Square as this was an ongoing response to their original concern.

## **A/16/15 MEAD CROSS**

### a) Area previously used by Westbury Show Home as a car park

Cllrs Grimshire and Norgate had viewed the original plans and confirmed the area had originally been designated as landscaping. It had been changed to car parking whilst the Westbury show home had been in operation, so should now be reinstated. The Chair believed that the landowner would therefore need to request planning permission for change of use to parking. The Council had been liaising with Persimmon because of inappropriate parking being a problem in that area. **It was resolved** to support any potential future change of use.

### b) Public open space area previously used by Westbury Site Office

Cllrs Bloxham and Jennings felt this area had been left in an unsatisfactory condition so the Amenities Committee had requested that a layby be created. East Devon District Council had opposed this due to possible damage to tree roots and were not welcoming of an application for a path whilst one for a layby was being considered. The Chair proposed that a path should be requested if the request for a layby was refused and the Committee was in agreement.

## **A/16/16 MEADOW LANE**

Members felt that dropped kerb(s) would benefit those using pushchairs and wheelchairs although some consideration was given to whether a bollard(s) might be needed in order to prevent small children on scooters inadvertently sliding into the road. The Highways team at Devon County Council were in support and the Committee agreed to progress the installation of dropped kerb(s) and to further consider the provision of bollards.

## **A/16/17 URGENT ITEM – RECENT ISSUES WITH HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT**

The Chair introduced this urgent item relating to the recent issues with hedgerow management. There was concern about the way recent works had been carried out, in particular about health & safety issues and the lack of notice provided. The Chair advised she had been told the flailing had now ended, that a different method would be used next time and that rutted verges would be reinstated.

It was felt that tractors with flailing gear, whilst suitable in rural roads, were unsuitable in a residential area. There was discussion about the importance of compaction to verges being properly remediated, rather than dips being simply filled and reseeded. Although the contractor had declined to share a copy of their risk assessment as Cranbrook Town Council had not commissioned the work, in view of concerns for the safety of residents exposed to flailing arms, large tractors and splintering branches, **it was resolved** that the Council write to the Consortium requesting robust answers to the aforementioned concerns and a clear summary of what had been learned from the recent works.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.