



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present

Cllrs Graeme Acraman (Chair), Barry Barnes, Paul Berry and Dave Homer.

In Attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Approximately 13 members of the public.

46/21 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman:

- a) Reminded Members that the meeting was being broadcast on the internet, so please speak loudly and clearly.
- b) Asked Members to raise their hands if they wished to speak.

47/21 Apologies.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Sandy Duck, Craig Gale and Roy Margetts – prior engagements. On the proposal of Cllr Graeme Acraman, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

48/21 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests.

None.

49/21 Minutes.

On the proposal of Cllr Dave Homer, seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes, **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

50/21 Matters Arising.

None.

51/21 Public Session.

The Chairman invited the public to speak during the specific agenda item on this occasion.

52/21 To consider request to site *Billingshurst Men's Shed* on Council property.

An application seeking landlord's consent to site *Men's Sheds* on Council land had been referred to the Committee by main Council. The Clerk had reported officers' concerns about ASB and vandalism at each site.

Representatives from the organisation, plus project sponsors, Billingshurst Lions, addressed the Committee and answered questions.

Representatives from Billingshurst Allotment Society explained why they couldn't host the *Shed* on their site.

The *Men's Shed* Chairman said their preferred site was Station Road Community Gardens.

Members spoke in favour of the many community benefits that the project would bring about and hoped that the Council may be able to support the scheme financially in some way.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Graeme Acraman, **RESOLVED** that outline Landlord's consent be given to site such a facility at Station Road Community Gardens, subject to more detailed plans being presented to Committee in due course; Clerk to liaise accordingly.

53/21 To consider request from BSRA to allow a mini bus to park regularly at Jubilee Fields.

The BSRA had asked for landlord's consent for a school mini-bus to park in the Council car park at Jubilee Fields. Councillors were pleased to hear that BSRA were trying to generate new income streams, although there were concerns over the ongoing issue of over-height vehicles leaving the height barrier open.

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Paul Berry, **RESOLVED** that consent be granted subject to the following conditions:

- a. Weekdays during school term only.
- b. Proof of leaving barrier undone will result in immediate termination of permission.
- c. Reviewable after 12 months.

54/21 To confirm extension to Grounds Maintenance + Seasonal Bedding contracts.

The Council appointed *Sussex Land Services* and *Baskets in Bloom* to undertake grounds maintenance and seasonal bedding respectively, from spring 2019 for 3 years. Unfortunately, the office lacked the capacity to undertake the complex re-tendering this autumn in readiness for new contracts to take effect in Spring 2022. Officers have explained the situation to both contractors, who are happy to continue for an extra year at the same price. On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer, **RESOLVED** that both contracts for be extended for one year accordingly.

55/21 To consider revised rewilding scheme for Village Green.

At the last meeting, Members supported a proposal to reduce a large overgrown shrub on the Village Green and replace with wild meadow flowers, all to be funded from HDC's *Rewilding the High Street* budget, part of the *Welcome Back* initiative. Local environmental group Billigreen has since suggested a living sculpture including old tree roots etc, that would have more impact and make for greater interest. An interpretation board would be affixed underneath the nearby Council noticeboard and some workshops for children were also part of the package. Total cost = £2,400. Billigreen members and the artist spoke from the public gallery and answered questions. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Graeme Acraman, **RESOLVED** to support the revise *Rewilding* scheme as proposed.

56/21 To receive property updates for information only.

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to officers for their endeavours was noted.

57/21 Any other matters for information only.

None.

58/21 Date of Next Meeting: 16 February 2022

The meeting finished at 8.29pm

Chairman

Date