

Public Spaces Working Group Minutes
27th January 2022, 9:30am

Present:

Cllr E Thomas
Cllr J Saunders

Cllr H Perkin
C Oswald-Jones

Cllr A Reynolds
Sophia Ramm

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

154. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Hook, Cllr C Williams and A Andrews.

155. Declarations of Interest

None.

156. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

C Oswald-Jones noted that Queen's Hall Car Park is looking a lot better.

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting dated the 25th November 2021.***

157. Benches

Cllr Thomas met A Blackburn by the bus stop outside 64 London Road and it was agreed that there is space to have a bench there.

ACTION – Consult the residents of 64 London Road for comments and obtain a quote for the cost of having a bench installed.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the potential for another bench along Westbrook Stream that a member of the public would fund. There are two location options, which Cllr Jackson has informed nearby residents of by letter to allow them to choose their preferred location.

158. Town Signs

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the town entry signs, it is now likely that these will be finished in late February.

Cllr Saunders noted a request from a member of the public for a street-style sign to be located by Westbrook Stream. It was **proposed** by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the working group support having an interpretation panel along Westbrook Stream and begin obtaining quotes and drafting designs.***

ACTION- Claire Windridge to liaise with the Friends of Westbrook Stream to discuss the potential of it being an interpretation board as well as a naming sign and source costs and draft designs.

159. Town Centre Cycle Racks

It was **proposed** by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED to purchase the cycle racks to be installed by the Guildhall.**

160. KCC Highways

Cllr Thomas provided an update on his discussion with Alan Blackburn. The plan is to replace the red blocks along West Street, Cllr Thomas will continue to chase this.

Cllr Perkin commented that some cobbles on Court Street look dangerous, so she will follow up on this via email to Alan Blackburn.

Cllr Thomas updated the meeting on Forbes Road, Ables Acre railings. It is being discussed whether it would be feasible to have trees there instead of railings. C Oswald-Jones suggested this subject is added to the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group so that they can investigate this possibility further. **ACTION** - Cllr Perkin to pass this to the Climate and Biodiversity WG.

Sophia Ramm updated the meeting on the curbs that are to be dropped as well as any drop-curbs that are to be repaired. **ACTION** – Sophia to provide the working group with a list detailing the drop-curbs.

161. HIP Review

Cllr Thomas reviewed the HIP with the group.

The accessibility of Court Street was discussed as well as potential solutions.

ACTION – Cllr Thomas to discuss the concerns brought up in the meeting with Alan Blackburn.

ACTION – Members of the working group to consider where they think drop curbs would be useful and then feedback to Cllr Thomas.

ACTION – If members have any suggestions on how to reduce the trip hazard outside of the Railway Hotel, please email them to Cllr Thomas or L Bareham.

Additions to the HIP were discussed.

162. Forbes Road/ Dorset Place

Discussed under item 160.

163. Matters for Report

The Town Clerk reported that FTC were asked by SBC whether they had any further ideas for the Welcome Back funding that is available. FTC has reapplied for funding for the planters outside the post office and bunting for the town has been sourced. Progress is being made on tidying the town's shop fronts, for example Cains Amusements are now out of their lease and FTC are investigating how much it would be to put vinyl over the windows.

Other ideas for the use of this funding were discussed.

Minutes typed by Abi Rainbow