

OPEN SESSION: 1 member of the public was present, who did not wish to speak.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers (Chairman)  
Cllr Angela Wiseman (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Darren Loose  
Cllr Anne Murphy  
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly  
Cllr Tony Ring

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Interim Town Clerk  
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator  
Oscar Poules, Student Advisor  
Jack Cheshire, Student Advisor  
Cllr Jeremy Heron

### **O/S5679**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ward and Cllr Terry.

### **OS/5680**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this stage.

### **OS/5681**

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **OS/5682**

#### **THE PLACE**

Members considered the Youth Co-Ordinator's monthly report (*Annex A*). She reported that she had had some communication with the District Council in relation to funding for Summer activities, to run alongside TUFF and was in the process of following that up.

Cllr Wiseman thanked the Youth Co-Ordinator for her report and for arranging for Youth Workers to cover the café in the Summer, during a period of staff leave. Cllr Day requested further information to be included in future reports, to indicate which outside agencies have booked which sessions, what age group each session is aimed at, attendance levels, etc.

It was agreed that advertising of 'The Place' needed to be addressed and that a Facebook page should be set up to promote the facility, opening times and sessions/events being run. This could be updated regularly so that any last minute changes are communicated.

Members agreed that a temporary banner should be displayed on the building to promote 'The Place' on the Family Fun Day on 10<sup>th</sup> June, where there would be a significant number of

people on Carvers. There was also a need for clear signage generally to indicate whether the Youth Café is open or not on a daily basis.

The Youth Co-Ordinator confirmed that an 'under 18' menu was available in the day, as well as the evening sessions, and Cllr Loose suggested trialling a 'meal deal' for school children to capture some of the lunchtime trade.

In respect of the proposed sessions on substance abuse, at a cost of £800, the Town Clerk indicated that, should Members agree to these, that the cost could be met from the contract services budget, but that this would put pressure on the budget for the remainder of the year. Cllr Day requested some evidence that these sessions were appropriate and some assurance that they would be well attended by those who would benefit the most, before making a final decision.

Members emphasised that the new facility, 'The Place', is for all young people in the town, not directed towards one section of the community and also somewhere where youth work can take place.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That the Youth Co-Ordinator provide further information in respect of the substance abuse sessions, evidence of the need, attendance levels and advice from the specialist on how to encourage young people with those issues to benefit;  
2) That a Facebook page be set up for 'The Place' to provide information on opening times, sessions run, promotions, etc; and  
3) That a temporary banner be displayed at 'The Place' for the Family Fun Day on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017

<b>ACTION</b> J Critchlow
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*With the agreement of Members, agenda item 7. Use of lamp standards for banners and lanterns was brought forward.*

**OS/5683**

#### **USE OF LAMP STANDARDS FOR BANNERS AND LANTERNS**

The Town Clerk referred to his report (*Annex B*) explaining that if the lamp standards are to continue to be used for banners and lanterns they are required to be stress tested. There was some discussion regarding the appearance, effectiveness and location of banners around the town. Members agreed that it was worthwhile conducting the testing and the Council offering this means of advertising to event organisers.

The Town Clerk indicated that Ringwood School had requested banners to publicise its Open Day.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That the testing of the sixteen lamp standards used for banners and lanterns be approved; and  
2) That Ringwood School be allowed to display its banners to advertise the Open Day, in line with Policy as a commercial organisation for this purpose.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Policy and Finance Committee authorise virement of £560 from reserves for the cost of testing of the lamp standards.

<b>ACTION</b> T Simpson
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*Cllr Heron left the meeting at this point.*

**OS/5684**

## PROJECTS

Members considered the projects outlined in *Annex C*, which are under the Committee's control, in addition to the testing of the bridge to Jubilee Gardens. Members agreed those that should not be proceeded with and indicated preferred timeframes for those schemes to be pursued.

The Town Clerk reported that the Long Lane Working Party had met earlier in the evening and that notes would be presented at the next Committee meeting. Discussions had been focused on whether other sports, besides football, could be accommodated at Long Lane and the WP agreed that they could not, without displacing the football club, save for the provision of a fitness trail around the perimeter. The scheme for the use of 106 developers contributions would be taken forward in the next year.

In respect of Carvers, the Chairman indicated that the WP would be recommending that cricket and bowls club remain in their respective locations at Carvers and that there would be some suggestions forthcoming in relation to the improvement of the tennis courts, however due to their initial construction, this would be a significant project. Members were in favour of a fitness trail at Carvers also.

Regarding Christmas lighting, it was agreed that investigations be made into the cost of extending the lights beyond Mansfield Road and possibly funding this with the savings made from the Christmas tree in the Market Place. The blue and white lighting in the trees around the Market Place was considered ample.

With varying timescales, Members agreed that the following projects be pursued:- Children's Play Equipment, Long Lane Sports Facilities, Carvers Recreation Ground, Land Adjoining Poulner Pits, Christmas Lighting, Columbarium, Ringwood Churchyard and Market Place Improvements, Lighting at Carvers Recreation Ground, Brockey Sands, Equipment Workshop and Garage at Carvers, War Memorial and the Bridge at Jubilee Gardens.

The 'Riverside Walk' and 'Extension of the Footpath adjoining The Bickerley' projects were deferred and it was agreed not to pursue the PA System for the High Street.

**RESOLVED:** That the projects detailed in *Annex C* be allocated timeframes as indicated under each heading.

<b>ACTION</b> T Simpson
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### OS/5685

#### MARKET PLACE IMPROVEMENT WORKING PARTY

The Town Clerk reported that the Market Place Improvement Working Party was ongoing and Members would receive updates as the suggested projects were considered and progressed. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

**RESOLVED:** That the notes of the meeting of the Market Place Improvement Working Party on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be received (*Annex D*) and that the recommendations therein be approved.

<b>ACTION</b> T Simpson
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### OS/5686

## LIGHTING AT CARVERS

The Town Clerk reported that approval was awaited from the portfolio holder, at the District Council, for funding up to £20,000 for the lighting at Carvers.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk's verbal update be noted.

<b>ACTION</b> T Simpson
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**OS/5687**

## EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED:** That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw (*Confidential Annex E*).

**OS/5688**

## ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO GREEN SHEDS AT CARVERS

Members considered the options for replacing the current electricity supply to the green sheds at Carvers and the associated tenders (*Confidential Annex F*). Members favoured the underground supply from the cricket pavilion and requested that Policy and Finance Committee be asked to meet the costs from reserves.

**RESOLVED:** That the underground option for the replacement supply of electricity to the green sheds be supported.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Policy and Finance Committee authorise virement from reserves to meet the costs of £3,700.

<b>ACTION</b> T Simpson
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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

**Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.**

RECEIVED  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

APPROVED  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

## Recreation, leisure and open spaces committee June 2017

### The Place – Youth Co-Ordinators report.

1. Introduction – May has seen much lighter nights and pleasant weather on the whole. The Place café has been quiet but steady. The youth sessions have been busy and young people in year eleven have been pre-occupied with GCSEs.
2. Summary of attendance – we have had 10 new attendees during May; which means we now have 156 young people on our register.
3. Youth Activities during normal sessions – young people use The Place to relax and meet with friends. This is a time for Jo ( Member of staff) who is relatively new to the project to build relationships with the young people

Recommendations – we need to recruit extra staff as we are limited to what we can achieve at the moment. We need three staff on duty at any one time as with two staff at busy times the role is reduced to monitoring and the capacity for expanding activities and learning is minimal. What we should be aiming to deliver are – life skills, cooking, learning about self, relationships work, interspersed with fun activities of sport, games, creative projects etc..

4. Additional Youth activities – Erin McMurty who runs The Edge Project which is a lottery funded project for the Wessex Heritage Trust is working with a group for the summer and the aim is to enable them to be creative with ideas which they then showcase for the community. The aim is to use Ringwood Carnival as the showcase for the ideas created by the young people.
  - i During half term we are using the daytime/early evening sessions to obtain young people's thoughts on the opening and activities on offer at The Place. (I will update this information next week)
  - i We have been supporting Ringwood school and working together with them to provide a targeted group of young people with a place to come before school and their exams. This has been a valuable time and has enabled young people to chat and relax and talk about their fears or stresses.
5. Summer events - we are working with TUFF and they are proposing to deliver play activities for children and families from the 7<sup>th</sup> August for two weeks. They will deliver 2 x hours of play every week day when the café is open which will enhance the footfall to The Place and be a valuable community event. Some of our older young women would like to help with this project which will be good for them and enhance their CVs. TUFF have an experienced playworker to lead these sessions. Youth workers are planning to keep our evening sessions running throughout the

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summer and have a theme of 'valuing' whether that is your team mates in sport, your friends, yourself, your community, your time this way we can have fun activities which will include valuing equipment and learn through fun.

Recommendations – to support the youth work programme we need to buy in the services of a specialist worker to work with our staff to provide sessions with the young people around the hazards of substance use – building self - confidence to say no and then using young people's knowledge to peer educate the wider groups of friends.

## 6. Development and linkages with other agencies –

- i Churches together – we will be open during the family fun day.
- i Young carers – we had Wave FM come to talk to young carer's at The Place on 4<sup>th</sup> May about their project and why it is important to fund the hiring of The Place to enable the young people to meet as a group. This session was accompanied by a representative from a hotel chain who are planning to provide funding for the group.
- i Talaiot Estudios – Spanish exchange students met at The Place on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. This was an early morning session and The Place was full of the bustle of excited 12 year olds. They were off later in the day to Southampton to explore the history of the city. This group wishes to use The Place three to four times per year when they have students in Ringwood. They are very impressed with the building and will hire the facilities.
- i YOT – I met with the manager of YOT for the Forest and they would like to hire our small meeting room for panel meetings and may also like to use the small meeting room for their staff when they are in Ringwood. (They will hire the space)
- i ASD New Forest – the support group for parents of young people with autism meet on a monthly basis at The Place .
- i Police – we have regular contact with Hazel Blake (PCSO) the latest meeting she highlighted concerns for a 12 year old who had been flagged by the school as being vulnerable. Hazel is keen to support us when she can which is appreciated.

## 7. Staff Timetabling –

## Term Time

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
AM							
PM							
Eve							

Established sessions
Desired sessions
Outside agency use

8. The café is open during the week from 10:30 until 3:00pm we are planning to trial opening on Friday from 12 until 4:30 on a Friday after half term.

Recommendations – during August Tracy will be away for 11 days – youth workers can keep the café ticking over if a stock of cake and supplies has been built up. During this time youth work will run alongside the café. There will not be a full menu available at this time. Long term a strategy needs to be in place to cover Tracy's time off.

9. Buildings and grounds –Recommendations we would like the CCTV camera at the end of the building which looks towards the cricket pavilion moved slightly to give a better view of the veranda of the pavilion as this would help us monitoring young people.
10. School projects – we are set up to deliver meals for young people who qualify for free school meals, during the summer holidays. The school will be letting us know which students will be supporting the project next week. They held a non-uniform day on the Friday before half term to support this work and some of the funds will enable us to buy new crockery, cups and cutlery.
11. Financial issues – We need a budget for resources. Is there an intention of replacing the pool table?
12. Other issues – Publicity and awareness we really need professional signage to show what we are and what we are doing at The Place.
- i The students from Moorlands college are coming to the end of their academic year. Their support and presence has been very valuable and we hope to see more students next year.

For further information please contact Jenny Critchlow mob. 07971533301

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**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
**USE OF LAMP STANDARDS FOR BANNERS AND LANTERNS**

- 1 As members are aware an initiative to publicise events in town and generate income has resulted in twelve lamp standards being used for the hanging of banners and four for the Council's Christmas lanterns. The Town Council makes a charge for the hanging of banners which provides a small income stream. The charge agreed by Committee last year was intended to cover the cost of ground staff affixing the banners and removing them after each event.
- 2 As long standing members may recall Ringwood in Bloom and the Town Council previously used lamp standards to hold flower planters as part of the summer flower displays. That arrangement was stopped when the County Council required stress testing to be carried out to the lamp standards to ensure that they were sufficiently robust to carry the weight of the planters.
- 3 As a result of the PFI contract entered into by the County Council most of the lamp standards have been replaced.
- 4 SSE, the PFI contractor has indicated that if the Council now wishes to continue to use the new lamp standards for banners and the Christmas Lanterns they will need to be tested every two years. It appears that other Councils may be similarly affected. The tests will include calculations on the effect of wind pressures from banners on the posts. It would be surprising if positive results are not achieved.
- 5 The cost of testing all the lamp standards is £560 which equates to £35per unit.
- 6 There is no provision in the budget to meet these costs. It is too early to identify savings from the approved budget to meet the expenditure. Nonetheless members may feel that as the income from organisations paying for banners on lamp standards could balance the costs of testing it is appropriate to carry out the required testing. In these circumstances Policy and Finance Committee should be requested to authorise virement from reserves to meet the costs.
- 7 On the basis that the banners do provide benefit for events in the town it is **recommended** that subject to Policy and Finance Committee authorising virement from reserves sixteen lamp standards be tested at a cost of £560.

For further information please contact

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## RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE - 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

### INITIAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April Policy and Finance Committee considered reports on the adoption of a Financial Plan and on Projects that had previously been identified for inclusion in capital and revenue budgets. That Committee agreed to the adoption of the Financial Plan and also requested all Committees to review projects under their control with a view to formulating proposals, with timescales and costs, in time for the preparation of the budget later in the year.

This report is intended to start the process for this Committee. It identifies projects and makes comments on the practicalities and some broad financial issues relating to each project. At this stage members are asked to review the projects and give an indication of their importance in developing recreational facilities and other matters under the Committee's control. In reaching conclusions regard will need to be had to both the financial and staffing resources that will be required to deliver the projects. Further reports developing any schemes identified for early implementation will be brought to the Committee during the year.

#### 2. CAPITAL PROJECTS

##### Children's Play Equipment

Provision has generally been made in budgets to allow replacement of this equipment on a rolling basis. The equipment at Toads Corner and Ash Grove has been updated but apart from replacement of the Slide at Carvers the equipment at that site is quite old and at least two pieces will need replacing preferably within the next two years. Although the amount in provisions was reduced over the past couple of years for other projects there is still sufficient to enable purchase of some new equipment this year.

Officers consider that investigations should begin immediately to identify the equipment that needs to be replaced and if possible work is carried out during this financial year.

<b>Children's Play Equipment</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>1) That provisions available be used to update or replace existing play equipment, where necessary</b>	<b>Short term Assessment of equip needed Costings</b>
<b>2) That investigations be made into alternative play areas, for eg. a splash park</b>	<b>Medium term Costings to be investigated</b>

##### Long Lane Sports Facilities

The Council has recently purchased eight acres of land to develop for additional sports purposes. Currently the land holding in that area is used for football, a small indoor shooting range and allotments. A Working Party has been established to bring forward proposals for a comprehensive development plan for the land. Its first meeting is immediately before the meeting of this Committee.

Whilst there is a need to use the Developers contributions allocated for the Long Lane area it is unlikely that any capital works will proceed this year. However if the Working Party firms up proposals by the autumn it may be possible to prepare a project brief in liaison with the District

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and appoint consultants to develop a scheme on behalf of the Town Council. If that timetable is met capital works could commence during the 2018/19 financial year.

<b>Long Lane Sports Facility</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Project brief – development of sports facilities</b>	<b>Short/Medium term</b>
<b>Capital works</b>	<b>Medium/Long term</b>
<b>Fitness trail</b>	<b>Medium/Long term</b>

## **Carvers Recreation Ground**

The Council had previously wished to develop Carvers as a Town Park rather than one with a dual use attempting to incorporate sports facilities. To achieve that aim it had been hoped that it would be possible to relocate the Cricket and Bowls Clubs to new facilities as part of the Linden Homes development at Crow Lane. Unfortunately the District Council advised that national planning policy determined that the open space requirement would have to be met by the provision of informal open space to alleviate pressures on the National Park. This ruled out the possibility of relocating sports from Carvers.

In addition the Council owns three hard tennis courts at Carvers which are hired out on casual bookings through the Recreation Centre. By an agreement entered into many years ago the school has use of the courts for tennis and informal play during normal school hours.

If the Council's previous aims are to be achieved consideration will need to be given to the long term future of cricket and bowls and the future use of the tennis courts.

At the present time there is no possibility of relocating either the Bowls or Cricket Clubs other than to Long Lane. If that is to be considered then the Long Lane Working Party will need to have early discussions with the Clubs.

Currently the tennis courts have little public use, possibly because of the availability of courts at David Lloyd and the lack of changing facilities.

It is suggested that until such time as it becomes possible to relocate at least the cricket club there is no realistic opportunity to develop Carvers as a true Town Park and the proposals should remain in the programme as a long term aim of the Council.

<b>Carvers Recreation Grounds</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Improvement of tennis courts</b>	<b>Long term</b>
<b>Fitness trail</b>	<b>Long term</b>

## **Riverside Walk**

The Council has acquired land adjoining The Millstream and had been in discussions with the Social Club and the Scouts to facilitate a land purchase and exchange as the first steps of a long term plan for the provision of a footpath alongside the Millstream to link the Danny Cracknel Pocket Park with West Street. Completion of the proposal would only be possible when the bus depot site is redeveloped. However in order to safeguard the Council's aim negotiations had been undertaken with the Social Club to purchase land between the Town Drain and the Millstream. Part of that land would have been exchanged with the land immediately adjoining the Millstream and owned by the Scouts. Provisional terms had been discussed with both parties but not completed as a result of proposals for redevelopment of the Social Club site.

The Social Club has now been sold and the Developer has indicated that he is unwilling to proceed with the sale as originally proposed by the Town Council. The footpath link could still be achieved by acquisition of land on the south side of The Millstream with access from Pocket Park across the existing footbridge. A second footbridge would be required nearer the bus depot site.

This is clearly a long term project if the Council does wish to provide an extension of access alongside The Millstream and to a large extent relies on the future redevelopment of the bus depot.

If the opportunity to purchase land for a footpath on the opposite of The Millstream comes forward then that is an opportunity that the Council may wish to take but in the meantime it is again suggested that this is a project that remains in the programme as a long term aim of the Council.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Riverside walk</b>	<b>Long term</b>

### **Extension of Footpath adjoining The Bickerley**

This proposal provided for a much needed extension of the footpath from the access to the Mill House flats along to the footpath past the Danny Cracknell Pocket Park. County Council funding was in place to allow the scheme to proceed. Because the Bickerley is designated as Village Green a Compulsory Purchase Order was required to enable part of the Village Green to be de registered. Unfortunately despite considerable local support there was one objection to the Order which would have led to a Public Inquiry the costs of which would have had to be underwritten by the Town Council. Until such time as the previous objector indicates that he would not object again it is unlikely that it will be possible for the scheme to proceed.

The footpath is clearly needed and it is unfortunate that it can be held up on the basis of one objection. If members wish officers could open discussions with the objector to ascertain whether there is any change in his views to allow further consideration of the project later in the year.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Extension of footpath adjoining the Bickerley</b>	<b>Long term</b>

### **Land Adjoining Poulner Pits**

The Council owns the former gravel pits off Poulner Road. Access is gained along the road originally constructed whilst gravel was being extracted from the site. Over time the road surface has deteriorated and is maintained as a countryside access with gravel used to repair depressions in the surface. The road is also used by the Angling Association for access to its fisheries. The District Council prepared a draft scheme for upgrading the access roadway some years ago at which time the estimated cost was in the order of £20,000. The scheme provided for the separation of pedestrians and vehicles as this is a well-used area by walkers.

It is likely that the cost will have increased. If funding could be made available this is a scheme that is worthy of consideration for early implementation.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Land adjoining Poulner Pits</b>	<b>Medium/Long term – suggestion to use CIL contributions</b>

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## Christmas Lighting

Since the Council took over responsibility for Christmas lighting it has gradually increased the investment to provide better displays in the town. The investment has mainly been within the Town Centre. There has been a proposal that consideration should be given to extending the cross street displays along Christchurch Road possibly in conjunction with owners of non-residential properties in that area.

A number of years ago the Council agreed to install lights in the trees in the Market Place and ceased to provide a Christmas tree at that location. The lights were left in place permanently and have been used by a number of organisations to give light to any late events. The tree immediately adjacent to the Christmas tree holder is fully lit and it was therefore felt unnecessary to provide a Christmas tree in that location. The cost of providing a tree and dressing it with lights is in the order of £800 each year.

The Committee is asked to give consideration to whether to extend the lighting along Christchurch Road and also to whether it is necessary to provide and light a Christmas tree in the Market Place in addition to the one provided in the Gateway Square.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Christmas Lighting</b>	<b>Short/Medium term</b>

## Columbarium

As part of an initiative to extend the life of the cemetery and achieve an annual income stream to offset maintenance costs of operating the cemetery the Council had previously agreed to investigate the provision of a columbarium for the resting of ashes prior to their scattering in the Garden of Rest. A full financial appraisal has yet to be carried out but if the project is carried through with a carefully designed columbarium in a garden setting it will meet the Council's original objectives.

There will be an initial capital cost but as the niches in the Columbarium are vacated on the scattering of ashes each niche will be used on many occasions and over time the capital costs will be recovered and the proposal will extend the life of the cemetery and provide income to offset maintenance costs.

It is suggested that whilst the project is one that will meet the overall objectives of the Council it is not urgent as the cemetery is not full and the scheme should be considered as a medium term objective.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Columbarium</b>	<b>Medium term</b>

## Ringwood Churchyard and Market Place

Officers have previously discussed both of these schemes separately. They have now been combined for consideration by a re constituted Working Party and proposals will be brought forward during the course of the year.

It is likely that there will be a proposal to incur expenditure in the next financial year but it is hoped that a large proportion of the costs for the Churchyard will be covered by grants. A sum of £4,800 is included in Provisions for maintenance in the Closed Churchyard.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Ringwood Churchyard and Market Place</b>	<b>Medium term – working party to come back with proposals and possible bid for funding in 2018/19 budget</b>

### **Lighting at Carvers Recreation Ground**

As members are aware the lighting from Southampton Road to serve Carvers as far as the Cricket pavilion was not installed. Proposals for this to be undertaken this year have been submitted to the District Council and it is hoped that this work will be funded from Developers contributions and carried out before the autumn.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Lighting at Carvers Recreation Ground</b>	<b>Short term – awaiting sign off from portfolio head at NFDC</b>

### **Brockey Sands**

Many years ago there was an open water area to the north of the viaduct at The Bickerley and to the east of what is now the site of the Old Mill Flats. The area was used by local children as a bathing pool. It is said that a local benefactor used to bring in sand to enhance the facility each year.

The pool area is now overgrown with weeds and self-set trees and gives a distinctly unsightly appearance to that part of The Bickerley. At one stage it had been invaded by Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. Because of the overgrown nature of the area the water is virtually stagnant and contributes nothing to the visual or environmental aspect of The Bickerley.

It is believed that the area came into the ownership of the Bournemouth and West Hants Water Company as a result of the 1974 legislation transferring water supply functions away from local authorities.

In order to improve the area the Town Council sought to acquire the land in 1993 but subsequently withdrew from the purchase. The issue was raised again in 2006 from which time until 2013 officers sought to encourage the Environment Agency to fund clearance of the pond area in order to improve its visual appearance from The Bickerley and also in the hope that as it would not be part of a fast flowing watercourse it might be suitable for fish fry to breed. Unfortunately the Agency's funds for this type of work was continually reduced and no works were carried out.

Notwithstanding the lack of success last time this area does have an impact on the visual appearance of The Bickerley and if cleaned out would provide another opportunity for residents to gain access to the water's edge in an attractive area close to the Town Centre.

Members are invited to consider whether this project should be considered as a longer term project.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Brockey Sands</b>	<b>Long term Possible volunteer project</b>

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## Equipment Workshop and Garage at Carvers

Much of the Council's grounds maintenance equipment is garaged in what are known as the Green Sheds at Carvers. These are secure units but are exceedingly old and unsightly. It is clear that at some stage in the future, particularly if Carvers is developed as a Town Park, that these will need to be replaced or an off-site solution found which would probably have to be a unit on an industrial site to garage vehicles and act as a workshop.

Again this is not an immediate priority but it does need to be included in any long term financial plan.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Equipment Workshop and Garage at Carvers</b>	<b>Long term</b>

## War Memorial

As members are aware as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 1 it is hoped to carry out repairs to and also add names previously omitted from the War Memorial. Estimates were obtained a year ago and for the repair works costs ranged between six thousand and seven thousand pounds excluding VAT. It was thought that it might be possible to obtain grants to the value of 25% of the cost of repairs although it does appear that a considerable amount of work would be involved in securing any grants. No estimates have been obtained for adding names to the memorial.

If the project is to proceed next year budget provision will be needed for the repairs and inscribing new names. There is a provision of £1,500 in reserves allocated for work to memorials although this would also have been intended to cover any work to memorials in the cemetery.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>War Memorial</b>	<b>Short term – needs to be ready for WW1 commemoration in 2018 – grants to be applied for with assistance from Rev Terry Roberts and Kevin Jones</b>

## PA System for the High Street

Members have previously agreed that this project is worthy of support and initial costings were obtained. However at that time the Town Council took a leading role in the organisation of events. Since the balance on provision is changing the Committee is asked to consider whether this facility is now a priority in which case further investigations will be undertaken.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>PA system for the High Street</b>	<b>Not to be pursued</b>

## Equipment Replacement Provision

In order to meet anticipated recurring expenditure the Council transfers fund to a reserves Provision in order to smooth out peaks of expenditure for replacement grounds maintenance equipment. It is believed that the amount transferred will need to be increased and the Finance Manager will report on this later in the year.

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Equipment Replacement Provision</b>	<b>Short/Medium/Long term – to be included in 2018/19 budget proposals</b>

### **Bridge at Jubilee Gardens – ADDED TO ORIGINAL REPORT**

Requires testing by a structural engineer

	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Structural Testing of Bridge at Jubilee Gardens</b>	<b>Short term – suggest building provision into the expenditure budget 2018/19</b>

### **3. RESOURCE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The projects and schemes identified above may not be a complete list of members' aspirations. However they are listed simply to give members an indication of the number of projects and initiatives that the Council will need to consider as part of its future programme of works.

In some cases there is currently no budget provision for the projects.

In addition it should be remembered that officer time is limited and most of the projects will need to be led by either the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk. The Technical Officer post which would have been involved in several of the projects is no longer on the establishment.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is **recommended** that consideration be given to the projects referred to in this report, together with any others that members feel should be included in the Councils programme and indicate a provisional order of priority for each one to allow further investigations to be undertaken and a report submitted to Committee later in the year

For further information, contact:

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Town Clerk  
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## Ringwood Town Council

Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong,  
Ringwood, BH24 1AT

### Market Place Improvement Working Party

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Ringwood Gateway, Ringwood

#### Present:

Ringwood Town Council - Cllr T Ward (Chairman), Cllr A Wiseman, Cllr G O'Reilly,  
Cllr Tony Ring, Terry Simpson, Mandy Oldfield  
Ringwood Society – Jeff Wickens, Dick Sheerin  
Parish of Ringwood – Kevin Jones

#### Apologies:

Jacqueline Brown – Parish of Ringwood, Edward Morant – Owner of Market Charter,  
Oscar Poules – Student Advisor, Jack Cheshire – Student Advisor

Cllr Tim Ward was appointed Chairman for the Market Place Improvement Working Party.  
Cllr Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 1. HUMAN SUN DIAL IN MARKET PLACE

Hoare Banks Stonemasons supplied the materials for the original Human Sun Dial. It was discussed whether or not these materials were satisfactory, as the life expectancy has not been as long as had been expected. Dick Sheerin read an email he received from Hoare Banks confirming that Portland Stone had been used and placed on a concrete base with a small layer of sand and was assured these were the correct materials for this project. The blocks are permeable and designed to flex and were placed at a slight angle to allow water to run off. Over the years cracks have appeared in the stones allowing water to penetrate and this could have contributed to the shorter life span.

The parking of vehicles in the Human Sun Dial area may also have contributed to its shorter life span, even though there are double yellow lines around this area prohibiting parking. The area has also been used by market traders and the poles at the bottom of the stalls may have caused wear and tear.

It was thought that square blocks, rather than round blocks, in the restoration work could help prolong the lifespan, or the possibility of a pyramid shape block, which would prevent vehicles parking on them. It was also suggested that a curb be placed around the Human Sun Dial to protect it, also considering the use of a concrete/stone mix to guarantee a longer lifespan of the 'stones', which would also allow the present shapes to be copied, thereby minimising disruption to the surrounding blocks.

A seating area around the Human Sun Dial was proposed, with the idea of enhancing it and providing a protective barrier. Cllr Ward has approached Mr Edward Morant with this idea, and he has no objection.

Another suggestion was to incorporate bicycle racks, along with the seating, to give cyclists another area to leave their bikes in the town and, again, would give protection to the Human Sun Dial. There is £500 in the Town Council budget for bicycle racks.

The idea of re-instating limited parking on part of the centre of the Market Place, or keeping it as a no parking area was discussed. Further information would need to be obtained before a decision can be made on this.

The Town Clerk has suggested that the grid next to the Human Sun Dial be removed.

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To give a visual effect of the suggestions discussed during the meeting, Dick Sheerin has offered to draw an architectural impression of the area, with the assistance of Sheerin Bettle regarding the materials to be used for the Human Sun Dial.

## 2. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS/PROJECTS IN THE MARKET PLACE

### Interpretation Board

- i Ringwood Market Town is full of history and it was agreed that an Interpretation Board should be placed in the Market Place to provide interesting facts about the town.

### Jubilee Lamp

- i Glass cleaning of the lanterns on the Jubilee Lamp is required - Town Clerk will check the contract.
- i The copper on the lanterns has tarnished and turned green. This is caused by patina, which is a thin layer that forms on the surface of stone; on copper, bronze and similar metals and produces a change of a surface through age and exposure. This is a natural process and is expected to occur.

It was agreed that Mr Edward Morant, the County and District Councils to be notified and consulted on any decisions made.

### Parish Church

Kevin Jones explained that the Parish Church is currently looking at full re-ordering projects, including proposals of the grounds around the church. An architect practice is assisting with these proposals.

- i The church would like to provide a link between the Furlong Shopping Centre and the church by introducing a walk through. The architect company involved has provided a plan, which Kevin showed at this meeting. The proposal would also include making wheelchair access easier to the church from its' disabled parking bays at the front of the church by re-instating the opening of the West Door at the side of the church. As part of creating the walk way link, the removal of some trees will be required.
- i At the rear of the church (next to the A31) it is proposed that an acoustic fence be erected on the Highways side of the existing church wall, but retaining the views, as part of the widening of the A31 scheme, and trees planted in front of the fence to make it more esthetically pleasing. This would act as sound a barrier. The Town Council maintains this area and at the moment is not used by the public. The church hopes that by making these changes the public will be encouraged to use it more.
- i The church obtained a faculty to clean and repaint the Town Safe in the wall of the church boundary. A survey of the paint was performed and it showed that it was originally painted grey and not black as originally thought. The 1831 Roses Act shows that this is the only one in the Country and was used for marriage, birth and death certificates.
- i It was agreed that Cllr Ward would represent the Market Place Improvement Working Party at the next Parish Church meeting. Contact details of Mr Morant, owner of the Market Charter, to be given to Kevin Jones to also invite him along.

## 3. TIME CAPSULE

To be taken into consideration when works are being carried out in the Market Place.

#### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Grant funding to be sourced for the Human Sun Dial in the Market Place.

#### RECOMMENDATION:-

- a) Dick Sheerin to provide architectural impression of Human Sun Dial and suggestions raised during the meeting, with assistance from Sheerin Bettle for materials used.
- b) Consider seating area as barrier to protect the refurbished Human Sun Dial.
- c) Consider introduction of Interpretation Board in the Market Place.
- d) To consider parking arrangements in the centre of the Market Place.

#### 5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm in the Forest Suite at the Ringwood Gateway.

#### Town Council Members

Cllr Tim Ward, Town Mayor

Cllr Gloria O'Reilly

Cllr Tony Ring

Cllr Angela Wiseman

#### Parish of Ringwood

Kevin Jones

Jacqueline Brown

#### Student Advisors

Oscar Poules

Jack Cheshire

#### Ringwood Society

Dick Sheerin

Jeff Wickens

#### Charter Market Holder

Edward Morant