

Attention was drawn to the importance of ensuring that the new Godlingston cemetery extension would be designed with appropriate disabled access to plots, wherever possible.

4. Prince Albert Gardens – Proposed planning of memorial tree

Consideration was given to a request received for a memorial tree to be planted at Prince Albert Gardens together with the installation of an appropriate memorial plaque. It was noted that Prince Albert Gardens had been the location of a vigil in memory of the individual to be commemorated. The Operations Department had identified a suitable location and it was confirmed that the view from the top of the car park would not be obscured.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Page and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To agree to the planting of a memorial tree at Prince Albert Gardens at the location identified on the plan circulated at the meeting.

5. CCTV System - Budget approval for upgrade of Shore Road cameras and installation of new camera at King George's Skate Park

It was reported that a maintenance inspection of the Council's CCTV systems had highlighted the need to replace two cameras on the seafront due to the ingress of salt water and the corrosion of brackets. Furthermore, as a result of reported anti-social behaviour in King George's Skate Park, Dorset Police had requested the installation of an additional fixed position camera at that location.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To agree to the replacement of CCTV cameras on Shore Road and the installation of a new camera at the Skate Park, at a cost of approximately £1,000.

6. Tree Works

a) Confirmation of Main Beach Car Park planting scheme

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 25th September 2019, consideration was given to the proposed tree-planting scheme to be implemented at Main Beach car park. It was noted that the species would be selected from rowan, silver birch and small leaved lime. Some disappointment was expressed at the small-scale of the planting programme (five trees), but it was noted that this was easily deliverable as the tree pits were already in existence. Consideration could be given to additions at a later date; for example, planting in appropriate containers would not have a detrimental impact on the newly resurfaced car park.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Page and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To confirm the decision of the sub-committee to approve the planting of five trees at Main Beach Car Park and associated works, at a cost of approximately £2,000.

b) Downs – Tree removal along Seymer Road boundary wall

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 30th October 2019, consideration was given to the detailed proposals for tree removal as part of the scheme to rebuild the dry stone wall at the top of Seymer Road. It was noted that eight trees needed to be felled and that no objection to these works had been raised by the planning authority.

Concern was expressed at the loss of trees, and the importance of replanting was stressed, together with taking steps to inform the public about the proposals. It was noted that the work was essential to preserve the wall, which was an important heritage feature within the Swanage Conservation Area.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the planned tree removal works along the Seymer Road boundary wall should proceed, in conjunction with an appropriate replacement planting scheme nearby.

7. Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Capital Projects Sub-Committee

A meeting of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee Meeting had been arranged for 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd January. Dorset Property project managers would be present to provide a report to the sub-committee.

b) Institute Road Improvement Works

The contractors employed by Dorset Council on the Institute Road improvement works had made a request to site some of their equipment in Main Beach car park. As the Town Council was part-funding the works this had been approved by the Interim Operations Manager. It was reported that any old stone kerbing found during the Institute Road works would most likely be returned to Dorset Council's depot in Charminster.

8. Procurement - Car Park Resurfacing Update

Further to Minute No. 101(a) of the Council Meeting held on 16th September 2019, it was reported that it had been ascertained that the Town Council could not use the Dorset Highways framework agreement to engage contractors to resurface its car parks. Officers had been exploring alternative options and discussions were continuing with Dorset Property regarding potential use of the Minor and Small Capital Works Framework Agreement. A further report would be made to a future meeting.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That, under Standing Order No. 1 c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda item 9 for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

9. Festive Lights – Extension of contract to include summer seafront illuminations

Further to Minute No.70(b) of the Council Meeting held on 29th July 2019, it was noted that the contract for the installation and maintenance of the festive lights did not include the seafront catenary. The existing contractor had provided an excellent service over the Christmas season, and had sought to minimise the financial impact on the Town Council of emergency call-outs wherever possible.

The current contractors, WGS, have the tools and equipment for the ongoing maintenance, and are able to address problems caused by sea salt and water ingress. It is proposed that bulbs and washers be replaced, and that LED bulbs be used as an energy-saving measure. The proposal also included post-Christmas checks and also at the end of June, prior to the carnival.

The estimated costs are £2,100 for equipment and £2,000 for maintenance work. Additional call outs would be charged at a daily rate.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That, further to Financial Regulation 11.1.e, the Council's existing contract with WGS for the installation and maintenance of its festive lights over winter 2019/20 be extended to include the seafront catenary over the summer season.

During the discussion, attention was drawn to the positive feedback received regarding the festive lights over the Christmas period. Funds would be required for further improvements and attention was drawn to a public meeting to be held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on Wednesday 22nd January at 6.30 p.m. for the community to contribute ideas to enhance the town's Christmas festivities. It was anticipated that Swanage Chamber of Trade would look after the finances of any Christmas Festivities Committee that might be formed and that funds would be raised towards future additions to the Christmas lights.

10. Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

This being the last meeting of the committee prior to the retirement of the Council's long-serving Operations Manager, who had returned to full duties last year on an interim basis, the Chairman paid tribute to his hard work and dedication to Swanage Town Council over a period of more than 20 years. Special mention was made of his achievement in ensuring a new Depot had been acquired to provide modern facilities for the Operations Department.

In reply the Operations Manager expressed his special thanks and appreciation to Councillors past and present for all their assistance and support.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 1st April 2020, and after some discussion it was agreed that future meetings of the committee should start at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.
