



ILKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ILKLEY PARISH COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TOILETS COMMITTEE HELD AT ILKLEY TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 6TH JULY 2017, 1PM

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Mike Gibbons

Councillors: Councillor Kate Butler, Councillor Susan Cuthbertson, Councillor Andrew Walbank and Councillor Mark Stidworthy.

Officers: Louise Close (Deputy Clerk)

Also Present: Mr David Runton (Ilkley Resident), Sue Gledhill (BRADFORD MDC), Damien Fisher (BRADFORD MDC), Nigel Gillatt (BRADFORD MDC), Jill Wilkinson (BRADFORD MDC), District Councillor Anne Hawksworth.

- 1718/09** **ITEM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**
Councillor Gibbons asked everybody for a brief introduction and then thanked Members for attending the meeting. He stated it was clear there was a need for a toilet provision in Ilkley and this group had been formed to try and keep them.
- 1718/10** **ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from, Councillor Murison (currently on paternity leave) and Councillor Butler (prior commitment).
- 1718/11** **ITEM 3 - DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
There were no disclosures of interest.
- 1718/12** **ITEM 4 - DISPENSATIONS**
There were no dispensation requests from members received by the Clerk in respect of this meeting.
- 1718/13** **ITEM 5 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
An amendment to the previous minutes was made in that Councillor Cuthbertson gave apologies.
Proposed by Councillor Gibbons
Seconded by Councillor Stidworthy
RESOLVED that, subject to the above amendment being made, the minutes of the Public Toilets Committee meeting held on 7th June 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
(Unanimous)
- 1718/14** **ITEM 6 - ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS COMMITTEE FOR 2017-18**
Proposed by Councillor M Gibbons
Seconded by Councillor A Walbank
RESOLVED that Councillor S Cuthbertson be elected as vice chairman of this committee.

1718/15

ITEM 7 – CO-OPTION OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor S Cuthbertson

Seconded by Councillor M Gibbons

RESOLVED that Mr D Runton and District Councillor A Hawkesworth be co-opted onto this committee.

1718/16

ITEM 8 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

1718/17

ITEM 9 - CLOSURE OF PUBLIC TOILETS IN ILKLEY

Members were asked to share their views and any comments received from the public regarding the closure of the toilets. It was stated that the anger amongst constituents to even consider closing the public toilets was high. Premises around the town, for example the Clarke Foley Centre, are noticing a large increase in the use of their facilities but without any contribution to this.

It was stated as ridiculous that essential services would not be kept open considering the amount of visitors to Ilkley and that in the 21st Century we cannot provide simple essential toilet provisions. It was stated that a large number of the businesses in town were not aware of the closure and when learning of this news were horrified, some feeling that it would be the end of their business.

It was also reported that the revenues made through the car parks in the town was swallowed into a central ‘pot’ at Bradford MDC and should be made available to use for Ilkley’s public toilets.

Bradford MDC officers confirmed that there was no budget available for the toilets and that they would close from the end of March 2018. If the Parish Council decided to manage the toilets then Bradford MDC propose to pass the buildings over on a 50 year peppercorn lease, rent free, however all other funding would be the committee’s responsibility.

The current state of the toilets was discussed and it was confirmed that they would be handed over in their current state. It was established by Bradford MDC a report/survey of the condition of the buildings will be carried out before being taken over. It was made clear that if there were any problems in the current state, there was no budget available to correct/repair these matters before handover.

The current employment of the attendant was discussed and it was confirmed by Bradford MDC that the Committee should seek independent advice as to any terms and conditions in employment law that might need to be considered.

Various possibilities of attendants, contractors, employment options, turnstiles, possible vandalism and coin entry toilets were discussed.

Bradford MDC confirmed they would send a map of the buildings and areas that would potentially be signed over. They will also provide a breakdown of figures for at least 5 years to ensure the committee can see an average of costs and any hikes with seasonal use.

It would be ideal to source a list of contractors for emergency repairs such as plumbing issues and blockages etc. The Clerk is to contact Dale Eddison and ask who they use. Bradford MDC were also asked to supply the costings to use them for any emergency repairs and to confirm if there was anything available for hand-over costs.

It was confirmed that the towns of Howarth, Bingley and Baildon were looking at similar projects and it might be beneficial to have a link up with them. Bradford MDC officers left the meeting at 10.35am.

Members confirmed that a smaller meeting in 2 weeks' time would be beneficial where information can be brought together and they could then decide on what option to take.

It was mentioned that the White Wells contractors should be contacted by the Clerk to see if they service anywhere else and the Clerk is to contact Keighley Bus Station and investigate who operates the free-of-charge toilets.

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on: **Thursday 20th July 2017 @ 6.30pm**

Meeting closed at 11.27 pm