



ILKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ILKLEY PARISH COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TOILETS COMMITTEE HELD AT ILKLEY TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2017, 1PM

Those present:

Councillors: Councillor Kate Butler, Councillor Stephen Butler (Ex-Officio),
Councillor Mike Gibbons and Councillor Mark Stidworthy

Officers: Clare Smith (Clerk)

- 1718/01** **ITEM 1 - ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS COMMITTEE FOR 2017-18**
Proposed by Councillor K Butler
Seconded by Councillor S Butler
RESOLVED that Councillor M Gibbons be elected as Chairman of this Committee. (*Unanimous*)
- 1718/02** **ITEM 2 - ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS COMMITTEE FOR 2017-18**
It was agreed that this item be deferred.
- 1718/03** **ITEM 3 - CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**
Councillor Gibbons thanked Members for attending the meeting and stated that the work of this Committee was extremely important. Councillor Gibbons deplores the decision of Bradford MDC to close the public toilets in Ilkley. We cannot expect visitors to come to a tourist town and not have any public toilets available to them. We must ensure that we involve as many people as possible in this Committee's decisions as we progress (e.g. local businesses, Bradford MDC officers etc).
- 1718/04** **ITEM 4 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Councillor Cuthbertson (prior commitment), Councillor Murison (currently on paternity leave) and Councillor Walbank (unforeseen circumstances).

Councillor Stidworthy requested that these meetings be held at a later time of day going forward. All agreed that this would be acceptable.

Apologies were also received from Jill Wilkinson (BMDC) and Damian Fisher (BMDC). Councillors expressed their disappointment that they had taken the decision not to attend due to the General Election purdah.
- 1718/05** **ITEM 5 - DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
There were no disclosures of interest.
- 1718/06** **ITEM 6 - DISPENSATIONS**
There were no dispensation requests from members received by the Clerk in respect of this meeting.
- 1718/07** **ITEM 7 - RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**
There were no members of the public present.

ITEM 8 - CLOSURE OF PUBLIC TOILETS IN ILKLEY

It was agreed that the Parish Council must explore all options of keeping the toilet facilities and services open to the public after 1st April 2018. Due to time constraints it seems likely that the toilets will have to continue to operate in a similar way in which they are currently run by BMDC for a short term solution.

The Parish Council would seek to take over the management of Riverside Toilets and the Central Car Park toilets. It was likely that the Town Centre Warden would be able to unlock the toilets each morning (Monday - Friday) and a cleaning contractor would lock them upon cleaning them each evening. The Clerk has received an initial quote from the Council's current cleaning contractor of £20 per visit for Riverside and £25 per visit for Car Park toilets. This price includes all consumables.

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to Jill Wilkinson's email (with copies to Steve Hartley (Director, BMDC), Cllr Anne Hawkesworth and Cllr Martin Smith). The response will state that Ilkley Parish Council is interested in negotiating and discussing taking over the Riverside toilet block and the Central Car Park toilet block. However, much more detail is required and more accurate costings should be provided. The Parish Council also seeks assurance that the fabric of these buildings and the fixtures within them are in good condition.

In the long term the Committee will consider a variety of options including honesty box schemes, automated locking systems and the possibility of converting some of the space in the Central Car Park block to incorporate a Visitor Information Centre.

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on: **TBC but to ensure that the time of the meeting is 4pm or later**

Meeting closed at 1:57pm