
Minutes

4 November 2003 7.00 pm
Alamein Suite,
City Hall
Salisbury

**These minutes should be kept for use by District Councillors
at the next Council meeting**

Present

Chairman: Councillor S J Howarth

Vice Chairman: Councillor K A Cardy

Councillors: Mrs P Brown, B E Dalton, Mrs E A Chettleburgh, J M Collier, S R Fear, J R L Nettle, P W L Sample, Miss M A Tomlinson, J M Walsh and Mrs S A Warrander

Apologies: P M Clegg, D A Culver, D J McCarthy, Ms S C Mallory, P V H Paisey and I R Tomes

Councillors: C R Vincent (County Councillor)

MINUTES NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL

30. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had concerns relating to the apparent lack of 'joined up working' between the District Council, the County Council, the Council's Highways contractors (WS Atkins), the Department of Transport and the 'Clarence' call centre, in relation to dealing with highway-related faults or problems. The matter had come to his attention, on this latest occasion, as a result of the lack of lighting in the underpass between St Ann Street and St Martins Church Street. Not only were the lights in the underpass not working; neither were the streetlights in the vicinity of the underpass with the result that the underpass offered a hazard to pedestrians (the majority of whom were young college students). Indeed, Councillor Fear had witnessed an accident on the previous evening when, as a result of the lack of illumination, a young cyclist had collided with shopping trolleys that had been abandoned in the underpass. In attempting to effect the restoration of the lighting, the Chairman had been passed from one organisation to another (and even to the Electricity Board who were, apparently, responsible for providing the cabling to the faulty lights) with no organisation agreeing to take responsibility for ensuring the lighting was restored.

Following the above announcement, a number of Councillors informed the Chairman of similar experiences and it was agreed that the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Chief Executive and taken forward, as an issue of cross-party concern, to the next Full Council meeting. The Chairman, agreed that he, in liaison with Councillor Fear and the other Group Leaders, would progress the matter, as necessary.

[Note: subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman, in liaison with Councillor Fear, agreed that the matter be pursued via an alternative route than that proposed above and that the matter not be raised at the next Full Council meeting.]

31. PUBLIC STATEMENT/QUESTION TIME

There were no statements by or questions from members of the public.

32. COUNCILLOR STATEMENT/QUESTION TIME

There were no statements by or questions from Councillors.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2003 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. TREE MANAGEMENT

The Committee considered the report (previously circulated) of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED – that, in line with the resolution agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting of 24 September 2003 on this issue and detailed on the meeting agenda, the following be approved :-

1. the Parks Unit, in liaison with the IT Unit, investigate the technologies available and their compatibilities to current SDC systems with a view to purchasing a 'palmtop computer data capture unit';
2. that a 'Condition Survey' of the SDC tree stock be undertaken in 2004/05; and
3. that a non-recurring growth bid of up to £17,500 (being the City Area Committee element of the total amount requested of £38,500) be submitted in 2004/05 to finance the items listed below :-
 - i. a new data capture pen-based computer; and
 - ii. the undertaking of a tree survey (possibly by an appointed arboricultural company commissioned on a fixed price fee).

36. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 'SWITCH ON' EVENT – ANNUAL ROAD CLOSURE, BLUE BOAR ROW – PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY DELEGATE AUTHORITY FOR THE CLOSURE TO THE HEAD OF FORWARD PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

The Committee considered the report (previously circulated) of the Legal Assistant.

RESOLVED – that (owing to the implementation of the road closure order being an annual procedure for a non-controversial event) the Head of Forward Planning & Transportation be delegated to authorise the closure of Blue Boar Row for the annual 'switch on' of the Christmas lights on an ongoing basis.

37. SPECIAL DELEGATION PROCEDURE

The Committee noted the matter dealt with under the above procedure as set out at agenda item 9.

(The meeting closed at 2000hrs)