

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE URGENCY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Evans (Chairperson) together with Councillor S C Egan (Substitute for Councillor H C Hamilton), Councillor N Hodges (Substitute for Councillor S A Hodges) and Councillor K Lewis.

ALSO PRESENT: Derek Wolfe – Executive Officer

U24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H C Hamilton and S A Hodges.

U25. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

U26. **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE URGENCY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2010**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Urgency Committee's meeting held on 7 October 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

U27. **SUBMISSION OF AN OUTLINE SCHEME RELATING TO THE "BLIND PARK" TO THE BARRY REGENERATION BOARD**

Councillors gave consideration to the contents of a proforma project initiation document and related paperwork, as well as an oral report submitted by Councillor S C Egan, Leader of the Council. He reported that he and the Executive Officer had met with the Interim Programme Director on Thursday 7 October, to discuss issues relating to the recently declared Barry Regeneration area. The Town Council needed to be mindful of two possible schemes for submission to the Regeneration Board when it next met on 6 December, namely the possible conversion of the former Barry Fire Station into a Museum, noting that this building was currently in private ownership, and the potential for regenerating the Gladstone Park Annex (colloquially referred to as the "Blind Park"), restoring it to its former glory.

He pointed out that the Blind Park was currently in the ownership of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and that a case would have to be made not only to the Regeneration Board but to that Council in terms of either transferring ownership, or entering into an agency agreement. He added that the subject of Gladstone Park Annex had been raised at a recent Buttrills Ward PACT meeting, namely in respect of anti-social

behaviour by some young people who congregated in the park on a regular basis, as well as extensive acts of vandalism that had been carried out. The Police had recently stated that they would be prepared to provide a letter of support, should the Council decide to take this potential project further. He noted that a letter had recently been received from the Vale Council in response to earlier correspondence, stating that the Unitary Authority currently spent in excess of £41,000 per annum in respect of the whole of Gladstone Park, indicating that probably in the region of £10,000 was spent annually on the Annex. He felt that there was a possibility that the Vale Council might make some revenue funding available, but that the Town Council would need to bear all the costs involved in regenerating the Blind Park, the intention being that Regeneration Area funding would take care of the majority of these costs. He added that the Council's Architect, Martin Killick, had already advised the Executive Officer that he would be happy to assist in preparing a scheme, on a "no win no fee" basis. Although Martin would have to bear some initial costs for his time in preparing proposals, he would be guaranteed the work for any substantive scheme subsequently approved, should the Council be successful in its submission. The Leader was aware that a number of members of the public attending PACT meetings would also be willing to write letters in support of the Town Council's initiative, should this Council decide to seek funding for the restoration of this amenity.

The Chair of the Committee commented that there was a need to secure this park, as well as returning it to its original splendour. There was currently little if any seating in the park due to vandalism. Councillor N Hodges added that in his view any possible scheme such as this was very much a "win/win" scenario for the Council, noting that one of the key requirements would be to replace the existing broken boundary wall. The Executive Officer made a number of points in relation to the timing and extent of any proposed scheme, to which the Chair responded, stating that in his view the Council should put together an outline application and submission in respect of all work benefitting Gladstone Park Annex, in terms of restoring it sufficiently so that it could again be used for its intended purpose.

The Leader noted that flower beds were still available within the park and merely required to be planted up, although a lot of arboriculture work would be required in relation to existing trees. He was keen that this Council should submit a firm proposal, inviting the Vale Council to handover ownership of the park as part of the overall deal, but noting that there would be annual revenue cost implications for the Town Council. He hoped that any duly restored facility would become a focal point for local community events. Councillor N Hodges was supportive, adding that either the Town Council should seek outright ownership of the park, or at least a very long (99 years) lease, which a number of Local Community Organisations already had in respect of Community Centres where the Vale Council remained the freeholder and landlord. He supported the submission of a comprehensive bid to address

problems of neglect associated with the Annex, as well as providing modest staffing to manage and maintain the facility. He made reference to the possible acquisition and installation of a band stand, but felt that such a facility might be better left to another project sometime in the future. Noting that the Vale Council had done little if anything with the Blind Park for many years, he hoped that it would not attempt to resist overtures made by the Town Council. He took the view that part of the overall bid for Regeneration Area funding should incorporate a much needed pedestrian crossing linking the Blind Park with the Town Council offices across the road.

The Leader considered that this Council should be able to fulfil the requirements for obtaining Regeneration Area funding, including the creation of employment via one or more groundsman posts. In summary, the Committee indicated that it was in unanimous agreement concerning the submission of a bid for Regeneration Funding, and

RESOLVED:-

1. that Martin Killick be invited to prepare an outline scheme for submission to the Board at its next meeting on 6 December, comprising improved fencing, CCTV facilities, a pedestrian crossing, the necessary infrastructure for future community events such as water supplies and power points, a hard standing area, new gates and the closure of two of the existing stairwells providing access to the park direct from Gladstone Road, noting that any project needed to be with the Board by Monday 29 November;
2. that a further meeting of the Urgency Committee be convened for Thursday 25 November at 2.30pm, to enable the Committee on behalf of the Town Council to sign off the outline application and plans prepared by Martin Killick, to enable them to be submitted on the Council's behalf.

U28.

APPEAL SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 78

The Executive Officer drew the Committee's attention to the contents of an appeal submitted in relation to the obtaining of retrospective planning consent for the construction a conservatory and wet room to the rear of 5 Cambourne Close and specifically against the imposition of certain conditions. He explained that due to the timescales involved, it would not be possible for Councillors to determine their response to the appeal (submitted with reference to application no. 2010/00526/FUL) at the Planning Committee's meeting on 2 November, as this was after the closing date of 29 October set by the Planning Inspectorate for written comments.

Councillors were informed that the Town Council's Planning Advisor had felt that the Urgency Committee need not submit any written comments, bearing in mind that when the application had been considered by Councillors on 6 July, the Planning Committee had indicated that it had no objections. Having given consideration to a copy of the Appeal letter received on 4 October from the Vale Council, together with a letter sent to the Local Planning Authority on 7 July as well as a decision notice dated 15 July the Committee RESOLVED:-

that no written comments be submitted in respect of the Section 78 Appeal relating to 5 Cambourne Close, Barry.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm.

Signed
(Chair)

Date