



Operations & Amenities Committee

Present: Cllrs Goodman (Chairperson), Bolanz, Chapman, Collins, Dunford, and Maslen

In attendance: Town Clerk, Operations Manager, Project Deliver Manager

Absent: Cllrs Cooper-Marsh, Johnson and Hitchin

Minutes of the meeting of the **Operations & Amenities committee** held on **Tuesday 11th March 2025** at **7.15pm** in the Eaton's Centre, The Maltings, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

ACTIONS

114 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Cooper-Marsh and Hitchin.

Admin

115 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

116 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Operations and Amenities Committee held on 11th February 2025 as a true and accurate record.

117 Action List

Members received and noted the committee action list.

118 Montague Square

Members received a report from the Town Clerk advising that there had been a request from a County Councillor that the Town Council consider approaching Cambridgeshire County Council to take on maintenance of planting at Montague Square, Eynesbury. The report was being brought forward to make Members formally aware of the request. Officers were recommending that the Committee defer making a recommendation on the matter until there was further outcomes from discussions with the County Council on grass cutting contracts, which includes rates for undertaking cutting for the County Council.

Members commented that the Council needs to better understand the current maintenance regime by the County Council along with resources and costs the Town Council would incur if it were to take on such maintenance. Officers had recently submitted updated grass cutting maps to County Council officers as part of their review of town and parish grass cutting, further discussions were due.



Members commented that the shrubs and hedges are not well maintained by the County Council and the square is an important entrance point for the caravan site. As well as unmaintained plants there is also rotting fencing.

The Operations Manager explained that the type of plants situated require cutting by hand and as all shrubs flower at different times this could be resource heavy for the Council team to take on.

It was agreed that the matter should be further considered following discussion and outcomes of grass cutting agreements with the County Council. The Clerk commented that due to resource implications and costs for maintaining an area such as Montague Square the Council should seek a higher rate than that of grass cutting.

RESOLVED to defer making a recommendation to the Council on maintenance of Montague Square until further information on resource implications and possible costs is clarified. That officers consider resource needed and implications of taking on maintenance of the area as part of discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council and reviewing grass cutting agreements.

The Chairperson asked that the matter to be added to the Action List for tracking.

119 Transition of Fleet to Plug-In Hybrid

Members received and considered a report from the Project Delivery Manager on the agreed purchase of new plug-in hybrid vehicles as part of transitioning the Council's fleet to environmentally better alternatives. The Project Delivery Manager outlined the Council's previous resolution to replace two vehicles with plug-in hybrids and explained that the increased cost is due a need to purchase new, rather than second hand vehicles. This is because the older generation of required vehicles are not capable of towing, which is essential for the operations team. A good deal has been secured on two new generation vehicles which requires up to an additional £3,000 in funding (£2,240 plus contingency).

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Governance Committee to allocate funds of up to £3,000 (inc. contingency) to replace the 2010 Ford Ranger and 2013 Nissan Navara with two brand new PHEV Ford Transit Customs.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND approving purchase of additional EV Charges from the 2025/26 revenue budget based on identified need following a period of operating the vehicles.

120 Operational Depot Door Replacement

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on the replacement of front doors at the operational depot which were required following a recent break-in. Members noted that an insurance claim would be made to cover the costs



of 'like for like' doors, but that if a more secure steel option was wanted the increased costs would need to be funded by the Council.

Members discussed security at the depot building and the value of improving security through investment in steel doors. The Operations Manager outlined the benefits steel doors would provide, explaining that three previous break-ins had been through the PVC doors and expressed a preference for company C's quote.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Governance Committee that the Council install steel doors to improve security of the depot building and that additional costs required for these doors above the level of a 'like-for-like' UPVC option approved by the insurance company is allocated from the Council's General Reserve. That the purchase and installation is subject to signing of a new lease for the building.

121 CCTV Statistics

Members received and noted CCTV reports and statistics for January 2025.

122 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next Operations and Amenities Committee would be on 8th April 2025 at 7.15pm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON