

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Assets and Environment Committee held on Monday
12 November 2018 at 11:00am in the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall**

PRESENT: Mrs C Topping (Chair)
G Catchpole (Deputy Chair)
Mrs S A Bubb
N Elliott
Mrs M D Haynes
J Janney
R Stubbings

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 3

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brambley-Crawshaw and Downes.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR ANY REQUESTS FOR THE GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS IN RELATION TO ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. TO RECEIVE FOR ACCURACY AND ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF THE ASSETS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED To receive for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018

4. TO REVIEW THE FENCING OFF OF PART OF THE GARDEN AT BLYBURGATE HALL

The clerk explained that there would be disruption to the tenants on at least three occasions if the council was to seek quotations for the extra works required in order to create the new fire exit, so she was seeking confirmation that the committee still wished to go ahead with the project at this time.

It was pointed out that the tenants were made aware before they moved in that the council was looking to fence off part of the garden. There was discussion regarding whether there was any particular benefit to creating a garden area for the hall at this time. It was generally agreed that no action would be taken at this time but that it would be revisited in the future. The tenants would be made aware of this.

RESOLVED To not progress with the fencing off of part of the garden at Blyburgate Hall at this time and to revisit this option in the future

5. TO CONSIDER WHEN A TWO HOUR SLOT OF FREE PARKING SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN BECCLES IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Waveney District Council was offering two blocks of two hours free parking in the town in all of its car parks on the run up to Christmas. One of the two hour slots would be used for the late night shopping event on 30 November. The committee discussed when the other slot should be used and it was agreed that it should be implemented on a time and day that may attract more visitors into the town.

RESOLVED To allocate two hours of free parking in all Waveney District Council car parks in Beccles on Friday 21 December 2018 between 11am and 1pm

6. TO CONSIDER DONATING £20 FROM TAKINGS AT THE BELL TOWER OVER THE CHARTER WEEKEND 2018 TO THE RUNNING COSTS OF THE EVENT FOR 2019

RESOLVED To donate £20 from takings at the Bell Tower over the Charter Weekend 2018 to the running costs of the event for 2019

7. TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING A POLICY REGARDING COMPETITION ON THE FRIDAY MARKET

Two of the current market traders from Beccles Market spoke on this matter. They explained that if the council doubled up on stalls then it would take the profit from the stall holders that attend 12 months of the year and these stalls may be lost. They suggested that a committee should be set up, to include the market manager and traders, in order to attract new traders that would bring new goods to the market. The current stall holders could go out to other markets and encourage stalls to come to Beccles. The market was not well advertised at the moment and so this could also be addressed by the committee.

Councillor Stubbings, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, reported that the committee had noted at its last meeting that income had reduced due to fewer stalls. The aim was to have a busy market. The blanket policy of turning away stalls that were in direct competition with existing stalls meant that the number of stalls had reduced.

It was noted that the only other market on a Friday was at Hadleigh. It was also pointed out that if the council was to advertise, it would need to state what types of stalls it was looking to attract, otherwise it could end up with repeats of stalls.

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The point was made that competition from another market stall could actually be healthy. It was also pointed out that stalls on the market were actually competing with the permanent retailers in the town that paid business rates.

The clerk reported that Clinks Care Farm had now applied twice for a stall, but had been turned down on both occasions as they would be in direct competition with existing stalls. It was pointed out that although stalls might be selling the same types of goods, such as ladies fashions, there were still variations in styles.

It was generally agreed that the new market working party should be given time to raise the profile of the market and try and attract new stalls. This could then be reviewed in six months' time. During this time, the 'no direct competition' rule would continue to be in place. At the end of the six months, the policy would be reviewed again.

RESOLVED That a Beccles Market Working Party is set up to raise the profile of the market and attract more stalls, and that the policy regarding no competition on the market would be reviewed after six months

Councillor Janney agreed to sit on this working party, along with the deputy clerk as the Market Manager and a selection of current traders.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING ADDING THE BECCLES WAR MEMORIAL TO THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

There were no concerns raised regarding the listing of the Beccles War Memorial.

RESOLVED To receive the correspondence regarding adding the Beccles War Memorial to the list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

9. TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE COMMITTEE'S PROJECT LIST

CCTV – Planning Permission was being sought for the cameras on Twyford's and the Tattoo Parlour in Hungate Car Park. The chair reported that the deputy clerk had mentioned the possible need for CCTV at St Luke's Church. However, this was land owned by the church and so would be its responsibility. It was suggested that the shops in the vicinity may already have CCTV.

Waveney Meadow – Phase 3 would be implemented soon. It was not possible to repair the sluice gates and so a pipe would be installed through the Barsham Wall.

Extension to 20mph Schemes – It was agreed that this was not a council project and so should be removed.

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10. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10 December 2018 at 11:00am.

*CA 19/11/18
10/12/18*