

Minutes of a Meeting of the Assets and Environment Committee held on Monday 4 September 2017 at 11:00am in the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall

PRESENT: Mrs C A Topping, Chair
G Catchpole, Vice Chair
E Brambley-Crawshaw (Ex-Officio)
Mrs S A Bubb
N Elliott
Mrs M D Haynes
J Janney
R Stubbings (Ex-Officio)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 0

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor 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 3 JULY 2017

RESOLVED To receive for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Assets and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 3 July 2017

4. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PRIDE IN BECCLES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2017

RESOLVED To receive and note the draft minutes of the Pride in Beccles Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2017

5. TO CONSIDER INPUT INTO THE BECCLES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There was nothing that the committee wished to input at this time.

6. TO ALLOCATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUNCIL'S ESTATE TO MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

It was agreed that councillors would keep a 'watching brief' on the following areas:-

Councillor Stubbings – Common and Skate Park

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Councillor Haynes – Sailing Club area and track leading to the club
 Councillor Elliott – Allotments
 Councillor Catchpole – Allotments and The Avenue
 Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw – Quay Area (including play area and hotel site)
 Councillor Janney - Quay Area (including play area and hotel site)
 Councillor Bubb – Waveney Meadow and Car Park
 Councillor Topping – Sport Grounds (including Goose Green Nurseries)

It was noted that the tenant (Beccles Farms) of the land to the north of the A146 reported any issues regarding this area and that Nick Harrison was contracted by the Fenland Trust to maintain the Marsh Trail.

7. TO REVIEW THE TOWN HALL EXTERNAL REPAIRS PROJECT AND COMPARE QUOTATIONS TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

It was generally agreed that the final bill for all works was reasonable given the number of years that the building had been neglected. Many of the extra issues found could not be identified until the scaffolding had been erected and a proper inspection had been carried out.

It was agreed that for any future, major projects, a project manager should be appointed and a contingency should be set aside for any unforeseen works.

8. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS REGARDING CARS AND CARAVANS FOR SALE IN THE GEORGE WESTWOOD WAY LAYBY AND CONSIDER INTRODUCING LIMITED WAITING

RESOLVED That a two hour waiting restriction should be applied to the George Westwood Way layby

9. TO CONSIDER THE SPECIFICATION OF A PROPOSED VEHICLE BARRIER AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL UNITS ON GEORGE WESTWOOD WAY

The design of the barrier was agreed, provided that there would be no cost to the council in respect of maintenance and that it would be left in place once the tenant vacated the premises.

RESOLVED To agree the specification of a proposed vehicle barrier at the entrance to the Industrial Units on George Westwood Way, provided there is no cost to the council regarding installation and future maintenance, and on the condition that the barrier is left in situ when the tenant vacates the premises

10. TO CONSIDER THE INVITATION FROM THE ORGANISERS OF THE CHARTER WEEKEND TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE EVENT FROM THE INCOME RECEIVED FROM TOWER TOURS OVER THE CHARTER WEEKEND

The committee were fully supportive of the Charter Weekend event and the increased visitor numbers that it brings to the town. It was reported that the Charter Weekend organisers were putting in measures to ensure that the event was 'self-sustaining' in future years. As there were a number of events that were held in the town which added to the popularity of the Bell Tower Tours, it was felt that it would not be appropriate to make a donation from the takings of the Tower Tours as this could set a precedent. The point was also made that the tower was an expensive asset to maintain and so it was important to generate as much income as possible.

It was noted that a previous grant application had been submitted by the organisers to the council but had been declined due to accounts not being available, and so it was suggested that a further application should be made for grant funding, including with the application a simple set of accounts.

RESOLVED To not make a donation to the Charter Weekend from the income received from Tower Tours over the Charter Weekend but to suggest that the organisers of the event make a further application to the council for grant funding

11. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE BECCLES TOWN WALKABOUT THAT TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017

Waveney Meadow – The chair reported that she had requested a quotation for a boardwalk to be installed on the marshy pathway leading to the river. She also reported that she had requested a quotation for low posts to be installed along the grass verge abutting Puddingmoor and the Waveney Meadow car park, in order to prevent cars parking on this verge.

Plum tree outside the King's Head – The plums had been removed from the tree and given away to the public

Blyburgate car park – Norse had highlighted a problem with the brambles in and around the car park. A lack of maintenance meant that the bushes really required digging out. The committee felt it was important to keep the bushes around the borders of the car park but would support the removal of the bushes within the car park, provided these were replaced with grassed areas and a selection of small trees.

RESOLVED To agree to the removal of the brambles inside Blyburgate car park, subject to the areas being grassed over and a selection of small trees planted and request that Waveney Norse retains and maintains more regularly the brambles bordering the car park

The issue of the damaged boundary wall was also discussed and the clerk was asked to chase this with Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Council to ascertain who is responsible for the repair of the wall and ask for it to be repaired as a matter of urgency.

12. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN



CCTV – It was suggested that this should not be progressed until work was completed on the Bell Tower.

Vehicle Activated Sign Installations – The chair had received requests for posts at Ingate Street and Blyburgate. It was agreed that a site meeting would take place and Dyniq would be approached regarding inspecting the chosen locations.

Napler Terrace Footbridge – The clerk agreed to obtain further quotations as Waveney Norse were not forthcoming with a quotation. It was suggested that permission should be sought from Anglian Water to cross the Town Drain. It was also suggested that a site meeting should be arranged.

(Councillor Janney left the meeting at this point)

13. TO REVIEW THE COMMITTEE'S PROJECT LIST

Extension of Parking Restrictions along Puddingmoor – The chair reported that there had been a meeting on site and that as a temporary measure, cones had been laid out on the bend on Puddingmoor after entering the road from the Bungay Road. The process had been started with Suffolk County Council to implement permanent single yellow lines on both sides of the road to the Bungay Road junction.

14. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The chair suggested that meetings should be held monthly in future, with the proviso that a meeting would be cancelled if there was insufficient business. It was agreed that meetings would be held on the second Monday of each month.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9 October 2017.

15. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS - PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 IT IS PROPOSED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED, THE PUBLIC AND PRESS LEAVE THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINING MATTER

