

Minutes of a Meeting of the Assets and Environment Committee held on Monday 15 January 2018 at 11:00am in the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk
Councillor G Elliott (part)

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 0

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Haynes 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 11 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED To receive for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Assets and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 11 December 2017

4. TO CONSIDER A CONSULTATION FROM WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A RICKSHAW LICENCE POLICY

The committee was generally in favour of the Licence Policy, but wanted to know why Rickshaws would have to be restricted to predetermined routes. It may be because a meter would be required if routes were not being predetermined. It was noted that the predetermined routes would be agreed with the Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

To agree the introduction of a Rickshaw Licence Policy and to seek clarification regarding the predetermined route policy contained in the licence

CA

5. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT NO 126 REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CHARGING FOR PARKING ON WAVENEY MEADOW

The committee reviewed the objections received and these predominantly expressed concerns regarding free parking for workers in the town and for residents living on Ballygate and Puddingmoor with limited off street parking. There was discussion regarding the income that could be generated from charging for parking being reinvested back into Waveney Meadow and the fact that people wanting to use the Meadow for recreation were not able to park on the car park during the week as it was always full.

It was generally agreed that a decision could not be made on whether to charge for parking until the level of income that could be generated was known. The clerk explained that Southwold Town Council was facing similar issues and had approached RCP Parking, based in Norwich. This company had prepared business cases for charging on the car parks and could lease parking machines to the council rather than outright purchase. It was agreed that the clerk should approach RCP Parking regarding Waveney Meadow, the Quay and Blyburgate Hall car parks.

RESOLVED That the clerk contacts RCP Parking regarding preparing business cases for charging for parking at Waveney Meadow, the Quay and Blyburgate Hall car parks

6. TO REVIEW THE CHARGES FOR MARKET TRADERS FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

It was noted that Framlingham Town Council's charges were lower than the councils, but that it did charge its traders quarterly in advance, and so if the trader missed a week, they were not reimbursed. It was generally agreed that it was a perk of the Beccles market that traders did not need to pay in advance and that having reduced rates for January and February would be complicated to implement.

RESOLVED That reduced charges for Market Traders for January and February are not implemented

7. TO CONSIDER PURCHASING A MOBILE CCTV CAMERA

Councillor Stubbings explained that the camera was designed for outside. The current cost was £181 and there would be a further £29 cost for a lock box which can be attached to a pole. A memory card would also be needed. The camera could be set to activate after dark to capture any joy riding on the Common. Signs would need to be erected showing that a CCTV camera was in place. There was also the potential for the camera to be used in other areas. There was general agreement that the camera should be purchased but there were concerns expressed regarding vandalism. Councillor Stubbings agreed to be responsible for checking the camera

RESOLVED To purchase a mobile CCTV Camera to be used at Beccles Common and other areas where necessary

8. TO CONSIDER PURCHASING NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR WAVENEY MEADOW

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw reported that equipment to replace like with like would cost around £10k plus fitting. It was agreed that funding should be applied for in order to pay for the equipment. It was noted that a group of residents were keen to help with fund raising. There was discussion regarding voluntary groups making and installing equipment, and although this may now be allowed, all work would need to be compliant with Health and Safety requirements. It was agreed that council should concentrate on providing equipment for children (phase 1) but that equipment for adults should be considered as a possible phase 2.

Councillor Catchpole reported that Waveney Norse had installed some excellent play equipment at Carlton Colville and so he was asked to provide costings.

RESOLVED To agree the purchase of play equipment for Waveney Meadow in principle and for Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw to continue investigations into play equipment and installation costs

9. TO CONSIDER TAKING ACTION REGARDING THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN RESPECT OF FLOOD ALLEVIATION AT THE ROWING CLUB AND SURROUNDING AREA

Councillor Bubb reported that she had received numerous calls from people who could not access their boats or the rowing club due to flooding in this area.

The chair reported that initial investigations had been carried out and a further inspection was taking place at the next spring tide (2 February). A pump was being installed on 15 January in order to pump the standing water out into the river. It was suggested that the pump should be left on site in case the problem returned. There were various theories as to why the area was flooding but it was agreed that the solution should be left to the experts. The Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Broads Authority were all involved. It was agreed that the council should keep putting pressure on Waveney District Council to resolve the problem.

10. TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN FOR 2018/19

Neighbourhood Plan – Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw asked for this to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

There were no further updates.

12. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12 February 2018 at 11:00am.

13. 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

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'CA', located in the lower right quadrant of the page.