

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber, The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Absent
Vice Chairman: Cllr K Mordecai
Councillors: M Dear, C May, J Leung, M Mordecai, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance: Borough Cllr K Blake, Town Cllr G Talbot and the Town Clerk

85. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Clark, K Herlock, M Moore, E Sainsbury and D Spencer

86. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the Agenda

None.

87. Public Participation session with respect to items on the Agenda

None.

88. Minutes of the Health, Well-being and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 20th February 2024

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

89. Health, Well-Being & Environment Committee Accounts

Members received and considered the following:

(a) a copy of the accounts in respect of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee from 1st April 2023 to 25th March 2024.

RESOLVED: information noted.

90. Minutes of Working Parties and Project Groups

Members received and considered the following minutes:

(a) Christmas Lights Working Party meetings held on 6th March and 28th March 2024.

Cllr K Mordecai said that members of the working party had met with Aylesford at their warehouse on 6th March to look at potential enhancements for the 2024/25 Christmas Lights. On 28th March, members decided on double strings with gold tinsel on all columns, 6 new locations for icicle lights and a three-star decoration for the beacon at an additional cost of £2,414.15. This increases the annual cost to £20,624.65 however there is sufficient in the Ear Marked Reserve to cover the excess for the two remaining years of the contract.

The Working Party will look at potential sponsorship from a service organisation for the Chantry Christmas tree.

RESOLVED: information noted.

91. Litter Issues

Members considered and discussed the following:

(a) Bins – Cllr Thomas informed Borough Cllr K Blake that Town Councillors had identified areas around the town where the litter bins were not in good condition and as there is an unspent budget for litter he asked Cllr Blake whether the Town Council could work in partnership with BBC to replace the bins thereby improving the street scene. Borough Cllr Blake said that solar compacting bins had been a great success since their launch in the Borough. Compactor bins are £2,400 for a refurbished model and £4,513 for a brand new one. Cllr Blake informed those present they can also be rented and he will ask James Hendry to contact the Town Clerk and provide all relevant quotations and arrange a walk about with Town Councillors. Eleven bins have been identified for replacement in Billericay and Cllr Talbot suggested an additional site near The Crown public house. Cllr Thomas then spoke about how much litter is behind the chain link fencing at Billericay station and what a poor first impression of the town it gives to those arriving by train. Cllr Dear advised that this had been discussed at length with Abellio Greater Anglia back in 2015. There is a very sheer drop to the railway embankment and Abellio had stated the reason for non removal of litter is this health and safety issue. Cllr May said that if possible replacement bins should be vandal proof and Cllr M Mordecai added that cigarette butts were a problem in the High Street so perhaps part of the discussions with Basildon could include the provision of butt bins.

RESOLVED: (i) that Cllr K Blake will get James Hendry to contact the Town Clerk with quotations and to arrange a date for a walkabout with Town Councillors to look at bins before the next HWE meeting, and; **(ii)** this project will then be brought back to Health, Well-Being and Environment when full information and prices are available.

92. Lake Meadows Teen Equipment

Cllr K Mordecai, Cllr Moore and the Town Clerk had met with officers from Basildon Borough Council to discuss the teen play equipment originally provided by the Town Council. The officers had presented two options – (i) BTC to fund refurbishment (minus the MUGA) and continue to be responsible for maintenance, or (ii) BTC to provide a contribution towards replacement equipment that BBC will have full maintenance responsibility for. Cllr Mordecai said that the quotation for refurbishment had not been provided in time for the meeting, however members were asked to consider that refurbishment of the equipment would lead to an eventual requirement for replacement so would be two lots of expenditure for the Town Council. Plus there was no minimum or maximum contribution suggested so the amount towards replacement would be totally up to BTC.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council is in favour of working with BBC subject to cost, and this will be brought back to a future meeting.

93. Phone Boxes Outside Post Office Delivery Office

Members were advised that the boxes are in very poor condition and have been the subject of resident's complaints. The Town Council Chairman and caretaker felt that the door of one of the boxes was a health and safety risk so it had been removed and brought back to the Chantry Centre. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that a recorded delivery letter is sent to the Chairman of British Telecom informing them of what has been done and requesting they refurbish as a matter of urgency, and any response is to be brought back to the next HWE meeting.

94. Items for Information

Members received the following:

(a) Tree Wardens – minutes of a meeting held on 6th March 2024

(b) Essex County Council's Community Safety Initiatives Fund – County Cllr Dr R Moore has advised that there is a £100,000 fund available to improve public safety across the County. Cllr May suggested that the Youth Town Council Safety Booklet may be eligible for grant funding.

RESOLVED: information noted.

95. Items for consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- Town Council is working with BBC with regard to improving the town's provision of litter bins

96. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr K Mordecai
Vice-Chairman of the Committee

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 7.46pm

Chairman:..... Date: