

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House  
on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.00pm

**Councillors:** A Adshead, R Chapman, J Clark, M Dear, M Moore, C Roberts,  
D Spencer, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance the Town Clerk.

In the Chair - Cllr J Clark

**1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Moore was proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Dear. There being no other nominations it was;

**Resolved:** That Cllr Moore be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

In the Chair - Cllr M Moore

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr J Devlin

**3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Spencer was proposed by Cllr Tutton and seconded by Cllr Adshead. There being no other nominations it was;

**Resolved:** That Cllr Spencer be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**5. Public Participation session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.**

None present.

**6. Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**7. Environment Committee Accounts**

Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the Environment Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 23rd May 2018.

**Resolved:** Information noted.

## **8. Working Party/Project Group Minutes**

### **(a) Billericay in Bloom meeting held on 3rd April 2018**

Cllr Moore presented the minutes and informed those present that the schools and retirement properties/care homes had been visited. Buttsbury School will be participating in the children's category for the first time this year. Cllr Moore is planning to visit the pubs to encourage entries and she also welcomed Cllr Roberts onto the working party.

### **(b) Events WP Meeting held on 4th April 2018**

Cllr Clark presented the minutes and said that the Town Council are taking over the organisation of the Festival of Remembrance concert from Brian and Beryl Ford, although they are still responsible for the musical part of the event. An online ticketing website will be used to save office time and any profit generated will be split between RBL and another charity which has yet to be decided. On 11th November the Town Council will arrange for the beacon to be lit as part of the national commemoration. Cllr Dear enquired whether there would be a cost to using a ticketing website. Cllr Adshead said that the plan is to use a charity specific site which takes a minimal amount per ticket. Older residents without access to the internet could purchase them from a local shop.

### **(c) Tree Wardens PG Meeting held on 19th April 2018**

No councillor was present at the meeting which was for Wardens only but a copy of the minutes had been circulated to members, and the information contained therein was noted.

### **(d) Christmas Lights WP Meeting held on 17th May 2018**

Cllr Clark presented the minutes and explained the issues with the lights and the three options suggested by Field and Lawn. Members considered the recommendation under Minute 5 and the general consensus was that there is insufficient time to go out to tender and select a new supplier. Members voted on the recommendation to scrap the current contract and re-tender. This motion was defeated. Cllr Moore proposed that the council accepts Option 3 - to extend Field and Lawn's contract to 2019 with new motifs at an annual cost of £13,500. Seconded by Cllr Adshead.

**Resolved:** (i) that the contract with Field and Lawn be extended to 2019, and; (ii) that in all other respects the minutes of the above meetings are approved and adopted.

## **9. Sponsorship for Environment Projects**

Members discussed whether in future only one letter should be sent to local businesses requesting a general sponsorship amount each year. This would cover Billericay in Bloom, Christmas Lights and hanging baskets. Cllr Roberts said that an annual sponsorship package would encompass different amounts depending on what businesses want to sponsor and that the Council's website could have a page listing the supporters for each event. Cllr Dear said she would prefer to avoid a corporate feel to what are essentially community events and that the Festival of Remembrance is to be included. Cllr Tutton proposed that from 2019 one letter is sent out listing the Town Council's events asking which they would prefer to sponsor. Seconded by Cllr Roberts.

**Resolved:** that in 2019 one letter is sent requesting sponsorship for Hanging Baskets, Billericay in Bloom. Christmas Lights and Festival of Remembrance.

## 10. Replacement of Street Furniture

Members considered replacement of the following:

- (a) Tye Common Road bus shelter
- (b) litter bin in The Walk

**Resolved:** that **(i)** Essex County Council is approached about the possibility of replacing the Tye Common road bus shelter, and; **(ii)** Basildon Council are asked whether they could replace the litter bin in the Walk as part of the High Street upgrade.

## 11. Railway Passenger Bridge at The Avenue

Members considered the concerns of Cllr Henshaw about the poor condition of the bridge and also saw photographs recently taken by Cllr Moore. Following discussion it was felt that it was possibly in need of a wash, but not currently in a poor enough condition to warrant a letter to Network Rail.

**Resolved:** information noted, but that no action is taken at this time.

## 12. Play Area Inspection reports

Members considered the annual reports of both the skatepark/teen area and the Outwood Common play area. All the issues identified were at the skatepark, and Cllr Moore informed members that the Council's contractor has been asked to quote for the repair work required. Councillors felt that the wooden structure is not robust enough but that it does have to be repaired, and they wanted it put into the public domain that continual damage will lead to eventual closure.

**Resolved:** that information regarding the vandalism and threat of closure is to go onto social media.

## 13. Public Toilet

Members considered and discussed a letter from a member of the public requesting that the public toilet is removed to save public money. Cllr Dear felt that cancelling the contract would save a lot of money over the remaining 5 years of the contract. Cllr Moore said that it had been installed following public consultation as it was the wish of local residents to have a public toilet. The only other toilet that can be used by the public is in Waitrose and that is not available 24 hours. Cllr Adshead felt that this provision had a social benefit rather than a financial one, but said that to cancel would save an amount equivalent to 8.4% of the precept, which has made him question whether it should be kept. Cllr Dear proposed that the contract is cancelled to save £43,000. Seconded by Cllr Chapman. A vote was taken and 6 were for and 3 against.

**Recommendation:** that the public toilet is to be removed, following a poll to discover resident's thoughts conducted via the Town Crier and social media.

## 14. Items for information

### (a) Update on War Memorial Illumination project.

An update on the project status had been circulated to all members by the Town Clerk following a meeting with the ECC Heritage Officer and a representative from the lighting

contractor. She informed members that as soon as the revised design is received from RSE Electrical the planning application will be submitted to Basildon.

**15. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release**

Skatepark damage and the cost of continually repairing which will lead to the threat of closure.

**16. Questions from the Press and Public**

There were none present.

Cllr M Moore  
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed:.....Date: .....