

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House
on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr M Moore
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D Spencer
Councillors: J Clark, M Dear, J Devlin, C Dyer, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance the Town Clerk

17. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs A Adshead, R Chapman, C Roberts.

18. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Moore, Spencer, Thomas and Tutton all declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 as they are members of Friends of Lake Meadows.

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

None.

20. **Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2018**

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

21. **Environment Committee Accounts**

(a) Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the Environment Committee from 1st April 2018 to 4th July 2018.

Resolved: information noted.

22. **Working Party/Project Group Minutes**

Members received and considered the following minutes;

(a) Christmas Lights WP meeting held on 27th June 2018. Cllr Clark presented the minutes and informed those present that a decision had been made regarding the new lamp column motifs.

(b) Billericay in Bloom WP meeting held on 28th June 2018. Cllr Moore said that this had been another successful year for the competition with a good standard of entries. Four schools had also taken part and 36 children had taken part in the Plant in a Recycled Container children's competition, which is the highest number ever to do so. The prizegiving ceremony takes place on Friday 20th July.

Resolved: information noted.

23. Festival Gardens

Members considered and discussed the following:

a) Plant a Shrub event. There had been a number of complaints about the condition of the shrubs and it was agreed that lack of water is the problem and that a hot summer will kill the plants. Cllr Clark suggested that the Council considers looking at planting specifically for a dry garden as has been done at the Beth Chatto gardens at Elmstead Market. It is understandable that residents are upset over their plants dying and the Town Clerk was asked to find out whether Amethyst provided a watering service and if so what the cost would be. It was agreed to let residents know via the Town Crier that they can bring their own water for the plants when visiting the Gardens. Cllr Moore said that she had raised the issue of the anti-social behaviour at the Neighbourhood Police meeting on 9th July and felt that she received a positive response. She also said that the Council should urge residents to report any incident when they witness it occurring so police are immediately alerted. Cllr Moore then proposed that the Plant a Shrub event does not take place this year. Seconded by Cllr Devlin.

Resolved: that the Plant a Shrub event does not take place this year, but the event is to be kept under review.

b) Perimeter Hedge. Since the Agenda was distributed the work to cut back the perimeter hedge has taken place

Resolved: information noted

24. Skate Park

Members considered the further vandalism that has taken place since the previous Environment committee meeting and discussed whether the Council should spend more money on continual repairs. Members were informed that half the original cost of installation has been spent on repairs in the last four years. Cllr Thomas had concerns about liability and how the Council could stop people accessing it. Members agreed that the cost of continual repairs cannot be justified and that regrettably the skate park should be closed and removed completely. The Council will look at installing a replacement facility in the future. The Town Clerk is to obtain a quotation for the removal prior to full Council. Following further discussion Cllr Devlin proposed that for health and safety reasons all ramp surfaces are removed and the ramp areas are fenced off. Seconded by Cllr Dear.

Recommendation: that the skatepark is closed and removed completely.

Resolved: that all ramp surfaces are removed for health and safety reasons and the ramp areas are fenced off to prevent access.

25. War Memorial

Cllr Moore said that the War Memorial needed tidying as there are a lot of weeds coming up where the lime tree was removed. Discussion also took place about the missing kerbing at

the WWII memorial and the raised paving slabs. With the illumination project the slabs will be removed and reset as part of the installation of the cabling and some costs will need to be obtained for this work. Cllr Moore proposed that both memorials receive a specialist clean prior to Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved: that a specialist cleaning of both the War Memorials is undertaken.

26. Friends of Lake Meadows

Discussion took place about the amount of printing that FoLM has been requesting from the Council and whether this is an appropriate use of officer time. This was a service originally offered to help when the FoLM started up but they are now a registered charity and members felt that administrative support was not necessary. Cllr Dyer proposed that the Council no longer offers printing facilities. Seconded by Cllr Spencer.

Resolved: that the Council does no further printing for the Friends of Lake Meadows.

27. Items for Information

a) Billericay in Bloom prize giving takes place on Friday 20th July. All members are invited to attend and volunteers are also required to help with the set up.

b) A request for the replacement bus shelter in Tye Common Road has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel.

28. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release

Skate Park and Festival Gardens will be in the Town Crier.

29. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.56pm

Signed:.....Date: