

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House
on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr M Moore

Vice-Chairman: Absent

Councillors: A Adshead, R Chapman, J Clark, J Devlin, C Dyer, C Roberts,
M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance the Town Clerk

30. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Dear, D Spencer

31. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

None.

33. Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018

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

34. Environment Committee Accounts

(a) Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the Environment Committee from 1st April 2018 to 29th August 2018. The rise in the cost of the electricity for Christmas lights was noted and this would be taken into account for next year's estimates.

Resolved: information noted.

35. Working Party/Project Group Minutes

Members received and considered the following minutes;

a) Events WP meeting held on 12th July 2018. Cllr Clark presented the minutes and informed those present that the format of the beacon lighting event has been agreed and that tickets for the Festival of Remembrance concert are now available online and in Billericay Library and Slipped Discs cafe.

b) Tree Wardens PG meetings held on 24th July and 23rd August 2018. No councillor attended either meeting but the minutes were considered and the Town Clerk gave an update on how the wardens should apply for TPO status. BBC Planning department have said that the Tree Wardens should come up with a proposal for dealing with new TPO applications and this needs to be approved by Neil Costen, Head of Planning Enforcement. This information will be passed to the Tree Wardens.

Resolved: information noted.

36. Skate Park

a) Demolition and Removal of wooden skatepark. Members considered the three quotations and it was:

Resolved: that the BBC approved contractor is appointed at a cost of £2,500.

b) eventual replacement of the facility. It was acknowledged that there is no funding in place at this time, but that the decision to replace and what with should be made before funding is investigated. Members agreed that the Town Council should do something, but that it would not be another wooden structure. It was felt that it would be a good idea to investigate other skate parks and their costings. Cllr Thomas suggested looking at alternatives to ramps such as rails. Cllr Moore proposed asking the Youth Town Council what they would like to see as they are best placed to talk to their peers and provide feedback about the preferred option.

Resolved: that the Youth Town Council will be asked for their input alongside research undertaken by the Town Clerk to see what is available and how this might be achievable.

37. War Memorial

a) members considered the quotation from Bakers of Danbury to clean both the memorials.

Resolved: that Bakers of Danbury clean the War Memorials at a cost of £1,045.00

b) Cllr Moore proposed that members of the Town Council form a small group to undertake regularly tidying and weeding of the War Memorial and surrounding area. Cllrs Dyer, Thomas, Roberts, Adshead, Devlin and Clark said they would be prepared to participate and it was agreed that the preferred time would be early morning (weekends). A date will be agreed via email.

c) Permission has been granted for the permanent illumination and temporary installation of 2 x "There but Not There" Tommies each November. The cost of this is expected to be around £3,500 and options for funding was discussed. Cllr Devlin reminded those present that Burstead Gold Club had offered to pay £3,000 towards the illumination and they should be approached to see if they would still be prepared to contribute. Other local companies that might be prepared to contribute would be Bennetts Funeral Directors and Co-operative Funeral Care. It was agreed to try and obtain local sponsorship before investigating crowdfunding. A plaque would be placed in the new building indicating who the sponsors are.

Resolved: that local businesses are approached to fund the purchase of the Tommies and electrical works before crowdfunding is investigated.

38. Town Trail Plaques

Members considered replacement of the plaques at Pasha (no. 24) and Garland Court (no. 25 - formerly the Rising Sun) and it was;

Resolved: (i) that the owners/freeholders are contacted for permission to reinstate the plaques, and; (ii) if permission is granted costs are to be obtained, and; (iii) Billericay Society's contribution level is to be determined.

Members were advised that the replacement of the historical information sign outside ASK Italian restaurant is in hand.

Resolved: information noted.

39. Benches at Sun Corner

Members considered a request from a member of the public about the lack of seating/benches at Sun Corner. It was suggested that she makes contact with Basildon Borough Council as they manage the area and are therefore responsible for installing any benches. Cllr Devlin said that for those seeking to install a memorial bench in Billericay Sun Corner would be an ideal location and this information should be given to BBC by the Town Clerk.

Resolved: information noted.

40. Items for Information

a) the Town Council's request for a replacement bus shelter at Tye Common Road has been added to the list of Local Highways Panel potential schemes for the next financial year.

41. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- "There but Not There" Tommies
- Demolition of skatepark
- Festival of Remembrance

42. Questions from the Press and Public

Cllr Thomas raised the issue of large bags of litter being left alongside the bins in Lake Meadows which are being ripped open by birds/animals. The Town Clerk will contact BBC regarding the possibility of installing a larger bin.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.52pm

Signed:.....Date: