

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House
on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7.00pm

Councillors: A Adshead, J Clark, M Dear, J Devlin, C Dyer, M Moore,
C Roberts, D Spencer, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance the Town Clerk and two members of the public

In the Chair - Cllr J Devlin

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Moore was proposed by Cllr Dear and seconded by Cllr Clark. 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 K Herlock

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Spencer was proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Clark. 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.

Mr Graham Moat had asked to speak to the Committee about the amount of glasses and bottles being removed from licensed premises and left in the High Street. When he moved to Billericay twenty five years ago what attracted his family was the traditional aspect of the High Street which he sadly feels is no longer evident. He is ashamed and appalled at the amount of litter and wants to do something about it. The Chairman thanked Mr Moat and informed him that there was an item on the Agenda address his concerns and that he was welcome to stay and listen to the discussion.

6. Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2019

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 1st April 2019 to 15th May 2019.

Resolved: Information noted.

8. Working Party/Project Group Minutes

(a) Tree Wardens PG Meeting held on 17th April 2019. Cllr Dear said that the Tree Wardens should be commended for their excellent work within the town, which was agreed by all present.

Resolved: information noted

9. Festival Gardens

Members were advised of the recent meeting between Cllr Moore, the Town Clerk and Skippers Ground maintenance to discuss improvements/enhancements to the Garden. Skipper's quotation will be presented to a future Committee meeting when received.

Resolved: information noted

10. Jim Shields Garden

Members considered whether a permanent piece of artwork or other structure should be placed in the garden to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower sailing. Various options were considered which included getting an artist/sculptor via the Art Trail, talking to a local blacksmith about ironwork and also the provider of Bennetts wall sculpture. The woodcarvers at Norsey Wood could also be approached for something along similar lines to the wood sculptures in Lake Meadows. Cllr Dear said she will also make contact with the woodcarvers that attend the Great Burstead Church Fete.

Resolved: that the above suggestions are all investigated and brought back to a future meeting.

11. War Memorial

Members were advised that the final work to repaint the open joints and cracks is being undertaken by Bakers of Danbury at a cost of £980.00.

Resolved: information noted

12. Events

a) Festival of Remembrance - members were asked to consider which charities should receive the proceeds from this year's event. It was agreed that the RBL Poppy Appeal should received half the monies, and Cllr Clark proposed that the other charity is Combat Stress. She requested members look into this further so that a decision as to the other recipient can be made at the next meeting.

Resolved: the charities to benefit this year are to be the RBL Poppy Appeal, and one other, to be determined at the next meeting.

b) VE Day 75 - members considered the letter from Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR detailing suggestions for events to commemorate VE Day 75 during 8-10 May 2020. Members were asked to consider what the Town Council could do as part of the commemorations and bring their suggestions to the next meeting.

Resolved: information noted.

13. High Street Issues

a) Litter - Glasses/Bottles

Cllr Adshead said that this item had been brought to his attention by Mr Moat on social media, and the Street Pastors have confirmed that they also collect a lot of glasses which are left in the High Street by people moving between venues. Cllr Adshead had various proposals for members to consider and after discussions it was;

Resolved: that Cllr Moore attends Pubwatch meetings as the Town Council representative to engage with its members by making them aware of the issue and to see whether a solution can be found.

b) Planters on Pavement outside Poundland

Members considered several colour options for the planters and it was;

Resolved: that the planters are painted black.

14. Items for information

None

15. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release

Promote the work of the tree wardens and their walks around Lake Meadows.

16. Questions from the Press and Public

i) It was requested whether obtaining Green Flag status for local recreation spaces could be presented as an Agenda item at the next Environment Committee meeting. Cllr Moore responded that a proposal could be submitted to the Town Clerk via email for inclusion on the next Agenda.

ii) Mr Moat asked whether members would like to hear his proposal as to how the broken glass/discarded bottle problem could be resolved? He has asked that Reids provide a large plastic container outside their premises on a Friday and Saturday with a sign stating "Please Place Bottles and Glasses in Here". Cllr Moore said that she will certainly bring this to the attention of the Pubwatch members at their next meeting.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Signed:.....Date: