

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House
on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr M Moore
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D Spencer
Councillors: A Adshead, J Clark, J Devlin, K Herlock, C Roberts, J Tutton

Also in attendance: the Town Clerk

32. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Dear, C Dyer, M Thomas

33. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

No members of the public were present.

35. Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019

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

36. Environment Committee Accounts

(a) Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the Environment Committee from 1st April 2019 to 4th September 2019.

Resolved: Information noted.

(b) Members considered the replacement of a basket swing seat at Outwood Common, and were reminded that this had been identified as a risk in the annual inspection report and would cost £1,137.72.

Resolved: to order a replacement seat at a cost of £1,137.72.

37. Affiliation Fees

Members considered the renewal of the annual membership of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) at a cost of £36.00.

Resolved: that membership is renewed.

38. Working Party/Project Group Minutes

Members received and considered the following minutes:

(a) Christmas Lights WP Meeting held on 27th August 2019

Cllr Clark informed those present that arrangements for the event are progressing well. She also informed members that the contract with Field & Lawn expires this year and the lights will then belong to the Council. To cut costs Field & Lawn have been asked to quote for installation & storage only in 2020 and this amount will be reported back to the next Environment Committee.

(b) Tree Wardens PG Meetings held on 3rd July and 4th September 2019

Members considered the minutes from the above meetings and agreed that the Tree Wardens should be congratulated on all their efforts.

(c) Tree Wardens Guide

Cllr Adshead requested that the Guide is submitted to the Planning Committee as an information document, which members were in agreement with.

Resolved: (i) that the minutes of all the above meetings be approved and adopted, and; (ii) the information contained in the Tree Wardens Guide is noted and submitted to Planning Committee.

39. Events

(a) Festival of Remembrance 9th November - Cllr Clark presented the notes of the meetings held with the Festival organisers on 4th July and 15th August. She made a request of those members that will be attending the concert to consider staying behind afterwards and helping to clear up. Most members felt that the performers should assist with the packing away rather than be reliant on councillors, but alternatively town councillors could be offered a free ticket as an incentive.

(b) Christmas Lights Switch On 23rd November - Cllr Clark said that extra stewards are needed to be on Sun Corner during the event as there were too few last year. The amount of stewards will be looked at when Cllr Clark and the Town Clerk attend the Event Safety Advisory Group meeting at Basildon Council on 3rd October. Cllr Herlock said that she would speak to the Billericay Town Rotary Club to see if they would be prepared to help out.

(c) Mayflower 2020 - members received a list of all the commemorative events in Billericay planned for the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower sailing which has been compiled by the Mayflower Twinning Association. The Town Clerk informed members that John Doubleday is working to have the sculpture ready for installation by mid-September.

Resolved: that all of the above information be noted.

40. Festival Gardens

Members were reminded a meeting had taken place at the Gardens on 3rd August. Cllr Adshead said that in his opinion the biggest impact on reducing vandalism would be to

remove the hedge that runs along Crown Road. This will open the Gardens up and the increased visibility will then make it less likely for anti social behaviour to take place. If annuals are planted then the peace and tranquillity should not be affected. Also a lot of the mature shrubs need cutting back. Discussion took place as to whether the garden could be restyled as a dry garden (due to lack of watering facilities) and the additional shrubs/plants which would work well, such as lavender.

Resolved: that Skippers are asked to provide a quotation for hedge removal and repair/repainting of the railings.

41. Jim Shields Gardens

Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the sculpture project status. The planning application is with Basildon Borough Council awaiting officer approval and a builder is currently being sourced to provide the plinth. An invitation only event will be held for the unveiling.

Resolved: information noted.

42. Flags/Flagpole

(a) members considered whether funds should be set aside in the 2020/21 estimates for the purchase of additional flags as currently there is only one spare in the office. The cost would be approximately £260 for three. Discussion took place and it was:

Resolved: that £300 is set aside for new flags in the 2020/21 budget.

(b) members were asked to consider arranging for the cutting back of the shrubs around the flagpole as they are very overgrown and are now of a height where they tear the flag as it gets caught on them.

Resolved: that a letter is sent to Essex Police requesting they cut back the shrubs on their property.

43. Town Map for Visitors

A member of the public visiting Billericay had called at the Council office to ask for a map of the town which is not available in printed format. Members considered whether one should be produced in 2020. Discussion took place and Cllr Devlin proposed that a map is printed internally as a trial. Seconded by Cllr Clark.

Resolved: that an A4 Town map is printed by the office to be distributed on request.

44. Town Trail Walks 2020

Members considered the retirement of the two walks leaders and for the walks to continue in 2020 it was;

Resolved: that the Billericay District Residents Association and Billericay Town Rotary Club are approached to see if they have any members willing to act as walk leaders.

45. Items for Information

a) Members received and considered a document entitled "How the Town Council can Positively Impact the Environment" which had been produced by the EALC and Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council, in the hope that their suggestions would assist local councils in becoming more environmentally aware.

Resolved: information noted.

46. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release

Nothing at this time.

47. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm

Signed:.....Date: