

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the Coach House  
on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.00pm

**Chairman:** Cllr M Moore  
**Vice-Chairman:** Cllr D Spencer  
**Councillors:** A Adshead, R Chapman, J Clark, M Dear, J Devlin, C Dyer,  
V MacManus, L Mitchelmore and M Thomas

Also in attendance the Town Clerk

**89. Apologies for absence**

No absences

**90. Declarations of Interest**

None

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

None.

**92. Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017**

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

**93. Environment Committee Accounts**

(a) Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the Environment Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 27th March 2017.

**Resolved:** Information noted.

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

(a) Jim Shields Task and Finish Group meeting held on 13th March 2017. Cllr Moore informed members that a meeting had since taken place with Skippers and their quotation is awaited.

(b) Billericay in Bloom Working Party meeting held on 23rd March 2017. Cllr Moore presented the minutes and informed members that additional sponsors are currently being sought.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the above meetings be approved and adopted.

**95. Christmas Lights - Change of Contractor**

Cllr Clark informed members that Piggotts decided to close down their Christmas Lighting division in February and recommended a company called Field and Lawn. Cllr Clark and the Town Clerk met with their representative on 16th March and it is felt that Field and Lawn are capable of meeting the High Street festive lighting contract requirements. Cllr Devlin said that it was correct procedure for a supplier taking over an existing contract to be approved as this enables payment to be made to them for the remainder of the contract.

Cllr Moore reminded members that Bar Zero had previously offered an electricity supply to light the tree outside their premises and that the working party should follow up on this.

**Resolved:** that Field and Lawn are approved as the Christmas Lights contractor for 2017 and 2018.

**96. Town Trail Walks**

Members considered the potential reduction in the number of walk leaders, so the Town Clerk was asked to select dates in June, July, August and September and contact the walk leaders for their availability. As in previous years it was agreed that the walks take place on two Saturdays and two Sundays.

**Resolved:** that Town Trail walks take place in the summer

**97. Commemoration of 20 Years of the Town Council**

Cllr Devlin informed members that the first ever official Town Council meeting was held on 2nd June 1997 and it had been decided that a display of 20 years of council activities would be on view at the Annual Town Meeting on 19th April. Cllr Dyer said that he felt 25 years was the anniversary that would normally be celebrated and proposed that a formal celebration takes place in 2022. Seconded by Cllr Thomas.

**Resolved:** that the Town Council commemorates 25 years of inauguration in 2022.

**98. Employment of Part Time Person**

Cllr Moore explained that during a meeting with Skippers at Festival Gardens she had been informed that they regularly litter picked the beds and borders even though it is not in their contract. Cllr Dear said she was concerned about the financial implications of employing another staff member and suggested as an alternative that Skippers be given an additional payment for litter clearance. She also felt that with the redevelopment of the Chantry Way Centre it might be best to wait until there would be more work. Cllr Devlin said he had done some calculations which showed that employment of another staff member could be achieved by a 1% increase in precept. Cllr Dyer was in favour of approaching Skippers to request they add litter clearance to their schedule of work, although Cllr Moore reminded members they are grounds maintenance professionals not litter pickers. Cllr Clark agreed and said that she felt asking Skippers to undertake this would be the more expensive option. Discussion took place and members agreed not to ask Skippers to do litter clearance, instead Cllr Moore suggested that the Town Clerk contacts Basildon Council and asks that they start emptying the bins twice a week which members were in agreement with. Some councillors said that they were prepared to undertake voluntary litter picking and Cllr Devlin felt that a future agenda item could be the co-ordination of a group of litter picking volunteers. Cllr Dear said that she would write an article for the Town Crier to attract volunteers.

**99. Town Railway Bridge**

Members considered the proposal from Cllr Chapman that the condition of the bridge is discussed with a view to it being cleaned and painted, and what action could be take to make improvements. Discussion took place during which Cllr Moore advised members that the bridge is owned by Network Rail and that the last time it was painted was in 2008. For repainting to take place the bridge has to be removed as trains cannot run whilst it is being painted. Cllr Devlin proposed that a letter is sent to Network Rail informing them that the

bridge is in a poor condition and also pointing out that this is a health and safety issue due to most of the bridge's lights not working.

**100. Terms of Reference Annual Review 2017**

Members discussed the areas of responsibility and agreed to remove Allotments and Crime Prevention, but keep the Beacon and Tree Wardens.

**Resolved:** that the Environment Committee Terms of Reference amended as detailed above, be approved and adopted

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

- (i) Litter picking "guardians" for Festival Gardens - Town Crier article to be written by Cllr Dear
- (ii) Town Trail walks to be publicised when date is agreed.

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

Cllr Thomas asked whether there had been any response from Basildon Council regarding the missing plaque on the rocking horse in the children's play area at Lake Meadows. The Town Clerk had asked the Parks Supervisor to try and locate it but there has been no response.

Cllr M Moore  
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm

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