

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee meeting  
held in the Coach House on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7.00pm

**Chairman:** Cllr M Moore  
**Vice-Chairman:** Cllr D Spencer  
**Councillors:** A Adshead, J Clark, M Dear, J Devlin, M Thomas, J Tutton

**Also in attendance:** the Town Clerk

- 75. Apologies for absence**  
Cllrs C Dyer, K Herlock and C Roberts
- 76. Declarations of Interest**  
None.
- 77. 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.
- 78. Minutes of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019**  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 79. H,W & Environment Committee Accounts**  
**(a)** Members received a copy of the accounts in respect of the H, W & Environment Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 6th January 2020.  
**Resolved:** information noted.
- 80. Working Party/Project Group Minutes**  
Members received and considered the following:
- (a) Christmas Lights WP Meeting held on 17th December 2019**  
Cllr Clark presented the minutes from the meeting. She informed members that different options for the 2020 lighting had been discussed, but the decision is to install the lights and have them switched on before the Christmas Market (no event). Instead of a Switch On the Town Council will have a Christmas Tree outside the Town Hall with a lighting up ceremony taking place during the Market on 6th December. AW Hardy have agreed to install a tube for securing the tree at no extra charge. The money that is saved by not holding an event will be kept aside for additional lights. Members agreed that these were needed at the top of the High Street, and the companies that submit tenders will be asked for their ideas.
- (b) Tree Wardens Project Group - Chairman's Report January 2020**  
**Resolved:** information noted.

**81. Festival of Remembrance**

Members were advised that Cllr Clark and the Town Clerk met with the Festival organisers on 16th January. Profits were down on last year as disappointingly 67 seats were unsold, however the charities each received £301. The organisers have decided not to carry on with the event due to the amount of work it involves, and members accepted that it would not take place in 2020, but will see what happens with the new Town Hall.

**Resolved:** information noted.

**82. Supporting the High Street**

Cllr Adshead spoke to members about how the Town Council should be seen to be doing something to support the High Street, potentially through discussions with the Basildon High Street Regeneration Committee. Cllr Devlin said this is a difficult issue and spoke about the High Street potentially becoming a Business Improvement District (BID), which is a business led and business funded body formed to improve a defined commercial area. Cllr Spencer felt that people are discouraged from locating their businesses in the High Street due to the high cost of business rates, however Cllr Dear said that is not always the case and cited the closure of a long established business on the High Street being due to the retirement of the owner, and nothing to do with lack of customers or the cost of rent/rates. Members considered the closure of Argos in March and agreed that this is down to the changing nature of the business. With Sainsbury's being the new owner, Argos stores are now being relocated in supermarkets. Cllr Adshead suggested that perhaps there may be ways for BBC to work with the owners of empty premises so that they can be used for things other than shops. Cllr Devlin said that if the Town Council makes the Town Hall a vibrant, active community centre it will naturally attract visitors to the town which will benefit the businesses due to increasing footfall.

**Resolved:** information noted.

**83. Tenders 2020**

Members received and considered the following specifications of work:

- a) Hanging Baskets/High Street Planting
- b) Jim Shields Garden and Festival Gardens Maintenance

**Resolved:** (i) that the specifications are approved, and; (ii) the tenders are placed on Contracts Finder and also sent to existing and previous suppliers.

**84. High Street Telephone Boxes**

Further to a resident's complaint about the condition of the telephone boxes discussion took place and it was:

**Resolved:** (i) that the Street Pastors are contacted regarding the box containing the defibrillator, and (ii) BT is to be contacted about the boxes outside the Post Office.

**85. Items for Information**

**(a) Dog Waste Bin in Western Road**

Members received a report on the status of the bin from Borough Councillor Richard Moore and Cllr Devlin proposed a vote of thanks to him for undertaking a daily inspection visit. This was carried by all members. Cllr Moore said that the report showed the increased emptying has worked and that no further action is required.

**(b) High Street Spring Litter Pick**

The Billericay Litter Picking group will be holding a litter pick in the High Street on Sunday 22nd March to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean event. Cllr Moore requested that they are asked to target Festival Gardens.

**(c) Town Trail Walks 2020**

Following the retirement last year of the previous walk leaders, members were advised that no one had come forward to take on the role. It was suggested that an advert could be placed in the Town Crier and Cllr Devlin said that he would also consider leading a walk.

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

Leader(s) required for Town Trail walks.

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

None.

Cllr M Moore  
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm

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