

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee meeting held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance the Town Clerk and Cllr D Wakefield

132. Apologies for absence

Cllr K Herlock

133. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the Agenda

None.

134. Public Participation session with respect to items on the Agenda

None.

135. Minutes of the Health, Well-being and Environment Committee held on 24th November 2020

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2020

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

136. Health, Well-Being & Environment Committee Accounts

Members received and considered the following:

a) a copy of the accounts from 1st April 2020 to 11th February 2021.

Resolved: that the information regarding the accounts is noted

137. Basildon Borough Play Review Consultation

Members received and considered details of the proposals and timescales for removal/investment of the various play areas within Billericay. The sites marked for removal are all in the Queens Park area and Cllr Devlin shared photographs of these. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Covid pandemic had highlighted the importance of open spaces and members felt these should be retained. Members also agreed to investigate what can be done to prevent these areas being lost to residents. There was concern that the consultation had not been widely publicised and the Town Clerk

was asked to see whether Basildon would provide a copy of their report on the consultation responses received. Cllr Devlin proposed that the Town Council approaches Basildon Council to look at the possibility of doing something with these areas. Seconded by Cllr Spencer.

Resolved: that the Town Council approaches Basildon Borough Council to find out the implications of taking over the play areas marked for removal and the time frame available to do it in.

138. Jim Shields Garden

Members received and considered the following:

a) quotations for a bronze plaque for the statue's plinth. Following discussion, Cllr Dear proposed that the quotation from Anglia Sign Casting is accepted. Seconded by Cllr Thomas.

Resolved: that the quote from Anglia Sign Casting in the amount of £979.51 (inc. VAT and carriage) is approved and accepted.

b) Cllr Tutton proposes that the statue is lit at night so that it remains on full view 24 hours a day. Members were informed that solar lighting had been investigated but was not advisable for outside. As there is no lamp column nearby then the pavement would need to be dug up to provide an electricity supply to site, and this work would considerably increase the cost of illumination. Members felt that the statue is a feature at the entrance to the High Street and does need to be highlighted. Discussion also took place about painting the wall behind the statue to make it stand out, however members agreed that there would be ongoing issues painting a wall which belonged to a third party. Cllr Clark suggested that quotes are obtained for lighting the statue and brought back to a future meeting. Cllr Devlin amended the proposal to obtaining separate quotes for provision of the electricity supply, the lights and the cost of a backboard to accentuate the statue. Seconded by Cllr Thomas.

Resolved: that quotations are obtained for the following (i) power supply to site, (ii) lights, and; (iii) backboard for behind the statue.

c) a request from Billericay Tree Wardens that two x Pilgrim 400 apple trees are planted in Jim Shields garden to commemorate the Mayflower sailing. The cost would be £99 for the trees with an additional £35 for grit/rootgrow/compost. Cllr Adshead had investigated this further and discovered that the trees can grow ten to fifteen feet tall with a spread of around twelve feet. Members felt that there are already enough trees on the site and it would become overcrowded. There was also the issue of what would happen to the apples produced. Although the Town Council wants to encourage tree planting it was not felt to be a suitable location and it was:

Resolved: that the Town Council is supportive of the project, but the Tree Wardens are asked to identify an alternative site.

Cllr Tutton left the meeting due to another scheduled meeting.

139. Billericay in Bloom 2021

Members discussed whether the competition should go ahead in 2021. Cllr Moore proposed that due to the pandemic situation it does not take place in 2021. Seconded by Cllr Spencer.

Resolved: that Billericay in Bloom does not take place in 2021

140. Items for Information

Members received the following:

a) a letter from Essex County Council about changes to the timescales of the Essex Wide bus shelter project

b) the date for the Great British Spring Clean is set for between 28 May – 13 June 2021. The Town Clerk will find out if there are any events planned during this time by the Billericay Litter Pickers

c) Billericay Tree Wardens – Newsheet January 2021

Resolved: information noted.

141. Items for consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- No Billericay in Bloom to take place this year
- Publicise Tree Wardens group – put newsletter on Facebook
- That the Town Council has requested clarification on the play area consultation responses from Basildon Borough Council

142. Questions from the Press and Public

There were none.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08pm

Chairman:..... Date: