

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee meeting
held in the Council Chamber, The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP
on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7.00pm

Councillors: A Adshead, J Clark, M Dear, J Devlin, M Moore, E Sainsbury,
D Spencer, M Thomas, D Wakefield

Also in attendance the Town Clerk

In the Chair - Cllr J Devlin

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Moore was proposed by Cllr Spencer 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

Cllrs G Bott and K Mordecai

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Mordecai was proposed by Cllr Adshead and seconded by Cllr Devlin. There being no other nominations it was;

Resolved: That Cllr Mordecai be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

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

None.

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

None.

6. Minutes of the Health, Well-being and Environment Committee held on 30th March 2021

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2021

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

7. Health, Well-Being & Environment Committee Accounts

Members received and considered the following:

a) a copy of the accounts from 1st April 2021 to 21st May 2021

Resolved: that the information regarding the accounts is noted.

b) to renew the annual membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) at a cost of £36.00

Resolved: to approve renewal of the annual membership to CPRE.

8. Basildon Borough Play Area Review

Members received the following:

a) Billericay Play Area Review presentation prepared by Basildon Borough Council.

b) a report following the meeting held with BBC officers to explore the possibility of the Town Council taking over the areas in Queens Park which are earmarked for removal.

Members were informed by Cllr Devlin that he had been in recent email contact with Borough Councillors Turner and Rimmer who have advised that a stop has been placed on the removal of play areas until the new administration has had a chance to review the proposed works. Cllr Devlin suggested that this item is not considered until further information has been received from Basildon Council.

Resolved: information noted.

9. Jim Shields Garden – Mayflower Statue

Further to Minute 150 from H, W & Env 30th March, members received and considered a quotation for the lighting of the Mayflower statue. Following discussions it was proposed by Cllr Moore that the quotation from AK Hobson Limited is accepted. Seconded by Cllr Clark. A vote took place and the result was FOR: 5, AGAINST: 3, ABSTAIN: 1. Therefore it was;

Resolved: that the work to light the statue is approved at a cost of £3,942.46 (inc. VAT).

10. War Memorial Illumination

Members were advised that there have been regular issues with the power supply for the lights and initial investigations have found that the 8 lights in the flower beds are corroded which may be the cause due to ingress of water. Cllr Moore proposed that approval is given for further investigations.

Resolved: that the Council investigates further to try and find a long-term solution which would protect the lights and hold back the soil.

11. Chantry Centre “Green Space”

Members were advised that regular work will be required on the “garden area” at the front of the Chantry Centre to keep it neat and tidy, i.e. weeding the beds and paved areas, pruning trees and maintaining the hedge. Cllr Adshead proposes that this work is added to the contract of Skippers Ground Maintenance.

Resolved: that Skippers Ground Maintenance are asked to undertake basic regular grounds maintenance at the Chantry Centre.

12. Festival Gardens

Members noted that the commemorative Pilgrim 400 apple trees planted by the Tree Wardens in early April were recently damaged and then ripped out completely so have now been removed. Discussions took place about enhancing security at the site and it was;

Resolved: that Basildon Council are asked whether there is the possibility of extending the High Street CCTV camera system to Festival Gardens.

13. BT Adopt a Telephone Kiosk Scheme

Members are reminded that at H, W & Env Committee 30th March (minute 151), members agreed to investigate the cost of restoring both kiosks outside the Billericay Delivery Office to a good order before committing to the scheme. Preliminary enquiries have given an estimate of £2,000 for materials. Cllr Adshead said that the Council needs to have a clear idea of what the kiosks would be used for and he doesn't think that a library or noticeboard would work in a busy High Street location.

Cllr Sainsbury proposed that the Council publicises details of the scheme to other groups that may have a use for them. Seconded by Cllr Thomas.

Cllr Devlin then proposed that the Town Council does not participate in the scheme at this time but maintains a watching brief to monitor the kiosks condition. Seconded by Cllr Clark.

Resolved: (i) that the Town Council promotes the Adopt a Kiosk Scheme to other groups, and; **(ii)** that the Council maintains a watching brief as to their condition.

14. Radford Way Railway Bridge

Councillor Henshaw had asked members to consider a proposal that the Town Council asks Network Rail to install lighting to the bridge as a matter of urgency. Cllr Moore informed those present that Network Rail are not legally required to install lighting – however they would permit Essex County Council to do so. There is currently no funding in ECC's street lighting budget to undertake this work, but a request has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel and a response is currently awaited.

Resolved: information noted.

15. Remembrance Sunday 2021

Members are reminded that the Town Council arranges and pays for the road closure to permit the parade and wreath laying ceremony to take place at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. This has been the case since 2015 when the Police announced they would no longer be providing traffic management for the event. Members are asked to approve continuation of the arrangement with Capital Traffic for a rolling road closure.

Resolved: that the Town Council continues to fund and arrange the road closure for Remembrance Sunday.

16. Items for Information

Members received the following:

(a) Update on the damaged paving stones in The Walk. County and Borough Cllr R Moore has advised that a project has now been raised by Essex Highways to take up and re-set loose/rocking paving slabs and replace any broken slabs in The Walk, Billericay High Street. Essex Highways has requested detailed underground utility 'maps' before works can start and once these 'maps' are received the works will be programmed for implementation.

(b) Billericay Tree Wardens Group. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2021.

Resolved: information noted.

17. Items for consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- Promotion of BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme
- Remembrance Sunday to go ahead if permitted
- Information plaque on statue – when it is installed

18. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm

Chairman:..... Date: