

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 27 August 2024 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr M Moore
Vice Chairman: Cllr K Mordecai
Councillors: P Bunyan, E Davies, K Herlock, C May, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance: Borough Cllr M Mordecai, the Committee Clerk and two members of the public

25. Apologies for absence

Cllr G Talbot and Cllr A Adshead.

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

None.

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

None.

28. Minutes of the Health, Well-being and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024

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

29. Health, Well-Being & Environment Committee Accounts

Members received and considered the following:

(a) a copy of the accounts in respect of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee from 1st April 2024 to 21st August 2024.

(b) to retrospectively approve renewal of the annual membership of the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) at a cost of £114.30

RESOLVED: (a) information noted, and; (b) membership renewal approved

30. Minutes of Working Parties and Project Groups

Members received and considered the following minutes:

(a) Christmas Lights Working Party meeting held on 23rd July 2024.

Cllr Mordecai, Vice-Chairman of the working party, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2024. Cllr Mordecai said that the Town Council had obtained agreement from some premises in the high street to hang new extra icicle lights

RECOMMENDATION: that full council approves expenditure of £4,258 from general reserves to fund the additional icicle lights.

(b) Events Working Party meeting held on 30th July 2024

Cllr Mordecai presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July and informed members that it is intended that the VE-DAY 80 event has a more celebratory tone than D-Day 80. The beacon will be lit and a new VE-Day 80 flag has been purchased. Unfortunately, the Annual Town Council meeting was due to be held on 8 May 2025 so to avoid the clash it is proposed that this is moved to 1 May 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: (i) that the Annual Town Council meeting is moved from 8th May 2025 to 1st May 2025 and (ii) that the events budget for 2025/26 is £5,000

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meetings are approved.

31. Borough Wide Issues with maintenance of footpaths, hedges and public spaces

Borough Cllr M Mordecai informed members that he is part of a cross-party task and finish group which has been set up to look at this. The following issues have been identified:

- Inflexibility of the current contract
- Staffing issues specifically around recruitment
- Changes in climate and the growing season
- New routing software
- Excessive littering

Cllr Mordecai said that the current contract includes eight cuts in the cutting season with one summer and one winter prune. Cllr Mordecai said that the task and finish group will have further meetings with the contractor and that there will be regular monitoring taking place. Cllr Mordecai agreed to return to a future meeting of the Health Wellbeing and Environment committee to give an update on progress from the cross-party task and finish group.

RESOLVED: information noted.

32. Annual Play Area Inspections – Outwood Common and Lake Meadows

Members received and considered the independent reports from the Play Inspection Company. As the inspection report raised no serious issues with the teen equipment at Lake Meadows Cllr May asked if it was necessary to refurbish the equipment now. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) that the information in the reports is noted, (ii) that Basildon Council are requested to replace the swing seats at the Outwood Common play area and (iii) that an item re the need for refurbishment of the Lake Meadows teen area be put on the agenda for 8 October.

33. **Feedback from URC Burial Ground Tidy Up**

Cllr Thomas gave members a verbal report of the tidy up which was undertaken on 3rd August 2024. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that the Town Council undertakes low level maintenance of the burial ground twice a year.

34. **Litter Issues**

Members considered and discussed the following:

(a) High Street Litter Pick – further to HWE 20.2.24 min. 79(b) members considered holding a High Street litter pick prior to Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: that a litter pick is held on 9 November.

(b) Replacement Litter Bins – members were advised that BBC would like to meet and discuss the list of bins that the Town Council had previously identified for replacement due to their poor condition.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk arranges a meeting.

(c) Compactor Bins – (i) BBC has confirmed that one of the High Street compactor bins is to be moved to either outside Greggs or the chip shop; (ii) the cost to rent a compactor bin is £85 per month, and; (iii) prices are still awaited for the outright purchase of a new or refurbished compactor bin.

RESOLVED: (i), (ii) and (iii) information noted.

(d) BBC Bin Audit – BBC are undertaking a borough-wide bin audit which will include the High Streets.

RESOLVED: information noted.

(e) Monitoring of Litter Bin Usage – BBC has advised that the street cleansing teams will be monitoring which bins have the heaviest usage from the end of August'

RESOLVED: information noted.

35. Benches on Sun Corner

Basildon Borough Council has advised that they have no objection to the Town Council providing additional seating on Sun Corner and members considered and discussed the style and cost of various vandal proof benches. Members agreed on the Amberol backed bench in black. Cllr Thomas proposed that the Town Council purchases three benches seconded by Cllr Herlock. Councillors will meet on Sun Corner on 28 August at 2pm to discuss potential locations for the benches

RECOMMENDATION: that the Town Council purchases three Amberol backed benches in black.

36. Items for Information

Members received and considered the following:

- (a) Essex-Wide Bus Shelter Contract Briefing from ECC
- (b) Tree Wardens – minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July
- (c) Tree Wardens – Newsletter from August 2024
- (d) BBC Waste and Recycling Consultation – closing 29th September 2024

Cllr May said that the Essex Wide Bus Shelter briefing mentioned that funding was available for parish councils to replace bus shelters. Cllr Thomas proposed that the Town Clerk investigates the possibility of the Town Council getting funding for replacing bus shelters seconded by Cllr Herlock.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk investigates the possibility of getting funding for replacement bus shelters as mentioned in the contract briefing from ECC.

37. Items for Consideration for Social Media/Press Release

None.

38. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08pm

Cllr M Moore - Chairman of the Committee

Chairman:..... Date: