

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee  
held via Zoom on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 6pm**

Item	Subject	Details
1	<b>Present</b>	Cllrs; Goldsmith, and Rowan-Robinson. Also the Town Mayor and Town Clerk and James Mellish.
2	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	Apologies were received from Cllrs Beavan, Jeans and Tobin.
3	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	To note the minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes of the June meeting to be resent to Cllr Rowan-Robinson.
	<b>Standing Orders- public section.</b>	
4	<b>Covid 19 – impacts update</b>	Play areas - play areas are open. Refuse collections and bins are increased. Public Toilet provision – toilets are now open with 20p cash charge – we will wait to see if there are any complaints about cash charge.
5	<b>Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates</b>	<p><u>Boating Lake</u> consultant’s report / <u>SWT Report for marshes/ Common</u>– amalgamated action arising.</p> <p>James Mellish gave an update of the consolidated actions arising from these reports and possible funding streams for each.</p> <p>Heritage Lottery Fund are not taking funding applications until 2021. They do have emergency funding available but none of our projects fall into an emergency funding category. As a result of HLF delay, the Rural Development fund is an alternative for part of the works along the Town Trail.</p> <p><u>Town Trail</u> – Stakeholder day held with very positive feedback. Planning application has been submitted for location permissions.</p> <p>Rural Development Fund outputs priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor interest/ Tourists stay longer – by way of environmental initiatives / climate change education</li> <li>• Tourist season extension – by way of improvement of rural economy / improvement of footpaths</li> <li>• New access infrastructure – by way of signage/ seats/ boards/ Town App information/ QR codes at select locations</li> </ul> <p>Need to show 2 of these outputs.</p> <p>From the amalgamation of the consultants reports from Boating Lake and SWT, James Mellish advised that the Grant fund could provide the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation panels/signage</li> <li>• Fingerposts</li> <li>• seating</li> </ul> <p>All feedback has been supportive of the principles of improving the trails– with details yet to be decided.</p> <p>Now need to evidence sustainability of these projects for the economy i.e. increased tourist season and increased tourist spend through the promotion of environmental learning opportunities.</p> <p>James Mellish advised that QR codes in key locations will assist the trail through the Town App. These can also incorporate environmental projects from within the Common and Marshes Management Plan also.</p> <p>JM report numbered actions arising from the B/Lake/ SWT reports.</p> <p>The sluice improvements might be cost prohibitive for this particular funding, but it could include the control of invasive weeds as detailed within the SWT report. Can also include</p>

	<p>the hedging/coppicing in the application and rolling the bracken which could be included i.e. nos. 6 -12 on James list (CT) and nos. 2/3/4 (STC) (not 5 not no. 1 completely).</p> <p>Re No. 1 – Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that the sluice to the harbour is the new one required.</p> <p>Re no. 3 – The tenants are primarily responsible for these areas.</p> <p>Re Nos. 4a &amp; 5 – these are linked as they could create a raised path by creating scrapes. James Mellish advised that these are too expensive for this bid. James Mellish advised that this work would be in the region of £20k. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that if no funding is available the Town Council will need to consider funding this cost.</p> <p>Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that the interpretation boards to the west of the railway line might perhaps be able to be included within the RDF application.</p> <p>Discussion took place re the splash. James Mellish advised that he could put rough budgets together for the cost of creating the wetland scrape and raised footpath. Cllr Rowan-Robinson asked that this budgeting be carried out.</p> <p>James Mellish advised that the outline of the RDF project has to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and the project would need to be complete by 12 months after approval – latest September 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that the wording/content for existing boards took a long while to get approval for but that it would seem sensible to apply for funding for the boards to see what might be approved.</p> <p>Discussion took place re the recommendation in the Suffolk Wildlife Trust report re a footbridge. Clarity to be sought as to location. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that he like James Mellish to go ahead and give rough budgets for 4a/4b/5 to establish a total cost to deliver these matters for which there is no immediate outside funding.</p> <p>James Mellish advised that he update the actions list with those items that would be appropriate to include within the RDF bid and then see what is left.</p> <p>Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that SCC have suggested paying for a topping for a path, but the farmer would prefer grass top.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to James for his input – the various initiatives had been clarified.</p> <p><i>James Mellish left the meeting at 6.36pm.</i></p> <p><u>Ferry Road Garden</u> – Cost is now very expensive compared to volunteer effort which would be minimal. Discussion took place re worth of it v cost (£10k). There are people who do voluntary gardening – could they be asked to help?</p> <p>Discussion took place re volunteers. Nicky Wright in Reydon might be happy to help. Cllr Goldsmith will need skip/gloves etc if we want to go ahead initially with volunteers.</p> <p>AONB – ask them for volunteers for this project.</p> <p>Facebook pages – ask for volunteers.</p> <p>Businesses – ask for sponsorship of plants.</p> <p>Cllr Goldsmith advised that an award-winning designer is offering time for free to design the scheme.</p> <p>Cllr Bradbury said he thought more research was needed before approaching STC about the project. Cllr Goldsmith to find out if the designer would design it, and for it then to be a community planting project.</p> <p>Keep Britain Tidy – Litter picking items have been purchased through Ward Cllr community Enabling Fund and this will be taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Tree survey – Cllr Beavan and Cllr Jeans – next meeting.</p>
6	<p><b>Leisure and Other matters</b></p> <p>Tiles on wall at back of Electricity Green – once we have received agreement from Sutherland House to put the tiles directly onto the wall - then to put forward the quote of £950 to put the tiles on the wall.</p> <p>Skatepark improvements – previously discussed with Carl Hurr – involve him as soon as possible. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that it would be appropriate to retain the existing equipment for as long as possible, subject to maintenance/ repairs required on existing equipment.</p> <p>Horse and carriage rides – next agenda</p>

7	<b>Events</b>	<p>Remembrance services– Cllr Bradbury advised that the Town Clerk and himself are in discussions with the church re Remembrance Sunday &amp; Armistice Day. This needs much planning amid social distancing requirements.</p> <p>Christmas event 4pm 20th Dec – Cllr Bradbury gave details of the requests from the Church for a community service.</p> <p><i>Any other business:</i></p> <p>Phone kiosk by Pier – research cost of a defibrillator or create a tourist information box – ask for funding from whom? Check if Pier has one.</p> <p>Request for £200 for front of town planting.</p> <p>Coastline Management Plan – Cllr Rowan-Robinson– new consultation – amendment to shoreline management plans. Cllr Rowan-Robinson – policy for Southwold is to “hold the line”. Cllr Rowan-Robinson would like this policy continued. Other parishes have “managed retreat” as their policy. Cllr Rowan-Robinson would like the Town Council to confirm the “hold the line” to be supported. Last time officers at ESC did a presentation to STC. Cllr Rowan-Robinson will draft and STC be asked to approve.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.26pm</p> <p>Put on STC Agenda for new members for this cttee.</p>
8	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 6pm

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