

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee
held via Zoom on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 6pm**

AGENDA

Item	Subject	Details
1	Present	Cllrs Beavan, Bradbury, Goldsmith, Ladd, Rowan-Robinson. Also the Town Mayor and Town Clerk and 4 members of the public.
2	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Apologies were received from Cllr Jordan.
3	Minutes of previous meeting	To note the Minutes of the previous meeting. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd September 2020 were approved and signed and had been noted at the previous Town Council meeting.
	Standing Orders- public section.	<p>A resident thanked the Town Council for replies to emails regarding the SCC footpaths and asked whether they SCC will engage and take an interest about putting topping on the paths etc.</p> <p>A resident reported that the potholes along the harbour road are very bad. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that the road to the harbour was the responsibility of ESC.</p> <p>Cllr Bradbury advised that the harbourmaster has been trying to sort the potholes out, but it is ESC responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Beavan advised that the harbourmaster smooths the road, but it is difficult to maintain especially in the winter. The potholes do also ensure that vehicles travel slowly.</p> <p>A resident advised that there was some discomfort re sculptures and boards proposed in the Town Trail and asked whether the Trail should be APP based instead.</p> <p>A resident asked who looks after the trees on Pier Avenue, as one has been hit by a car and the hole has now been tarmacked over.</p> <p>Cllr Ladd advised that the tree had been removed by SCC. Several trees are missing from Pier Avenue, but SCC were going to charge to assess the trees. Cllr Ladd advised that it is an avenue and should have trees. The area was cemented over for safety. Cllr Ladd has spoken to Robert Beevor about the best tree to put back there and would hope to have it replaced in the spring.</p>
4	Covid 19 – impacts update	<p><i>Play areas</i></p> <p>Skatepark and gym equipment have had to be closed off in line with the new Covid 19 Regulations.</p>
5	Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferry Road garden — <i>update by Cllr Goldsmith</i> – AONB are looking to send volunteers to help clear the site on 15th December 2020. However, it was acknowledged that without the help of the AONB the area could not be restored as there was a lack of volunteers locally. • Cllr Goldsmith explained that a specialist offer has been made for this area – A designer who will be showing at Hampton Court in 2021 has offered to design a scheme for the show based on the area at Ferry Road garden, and that after the show the plants/designs could then be transferred to Ferry Road garden. To take this to the next stage the designer would need to be made aware of the budget that could be provided for the design and implementation. • Discussion re costs. The committee discussed the costs as proposed by the designer/gardener of approx. £8k in total. Discussion about obtaining other

quotes. It was felt by the cttee that as this was a one-off specialist offer, no similar quotes would be available as the designer will be providing his design free of charge to then take to Hampton Court. Maintenance of the garden once planted would be in the region of £40 per month to include watering. Cllr Ladd suggested that the costs could it be spread over 2 budget years. Cllr Ladd offered to provide a £1k grant from his SCC Locality Budget for this project as it was felt that a show garden in this area would be excellent. Cllr Bradbury advised that he would like to support – and Cllr Beavan advised that it seemed a very good project with £4k costs being allocated this year and £4k next year. Suggested that it could perhaps be linked to Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Discussion about land ownership - Cllr Rowan-Robinson asked whether it was owned by STC? The meeting was advised that is owned by ESC and that STC have in the past advised that they would be happy to divest it to STC. Subsequent to meeting ESC advise that they do not own this area of land – further research required as to ownership.

Cllr Ladd suggested that STC need to get ownership back and then go ahead with the project.

Cllr Rowan-Robinson:

- 1) Get ownership back to resurrect as a garden.
- 2) STC L and E cttee £3k this year and £3k next year.
- 3) Seek additional sponsorship - £1k Cllr Ladd Locality Budget and £1k from another source.

Design skills for Hampton Court = free.

1 Quote only due to the specialist nature of the project

Recommendation - Cttee All in favour – unanimous. STC to be asked to support re land ownership and specialist project.

- Common Trust/ Marshes report – STC actions agreed July 2020 – see report re Buss Creek marshes
Splash
Information Boards
Path Mights Bridge – Bailey Bridge
Path across Town Marsh
Consider condition of all footpaths.

Discussion re priority of footpath improvements. Tree down across footpath – noted to SCC.

Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that;

He has checked out the water levels for the marshes.

Culvert under the Baily Bridge is blocked. Buss Creek marshes water levels are high. Need to have discussions with Flaxman's/Natural England on this and various other matters.

Fencing off of paths along Buss Creek – this will not be possible as both Natural England and the tenant have concerns.

Advisory boards will be required – advising re dogs and cattle.

Path across town marshes to Harbour Inn. Could be achievable as costs of this project will be reduced by creating new scrapes from which the earth can be used to create a new path. Within bid to RDF = £9k of grant bid can be used to help path across from Harbour Inn. Total cost of path £20-30k of which £9k might come from RDF.

Information boards are also included in the RDF bid. The Planning Committee viewed the planning application which was then paused to enable further stakeholder consultations.

		<p>Sculptures – no decision has been made regarding these. Sandlings Trail has some nice ones i.e. on Dunwich Heath. Cllr Bradbury advised that any suggestion of these are presently concepts not definitive. Public consultation process was undertaken on these as above.</p> <p>Cllr Ladd advised that all of the work projects above have arisen from the CC Economic Plan, Marshes Plan, Suffolk Wildlife Trust plans which are up to 4 years old – and that all of these Plans were developed with stakeholder engagements and consultations.</p> <p>Cllr Beavan suggested that further stakeholder consultations might be required as people were also concerned about the boating lake lagoons etc.</p> <p>Cllr Goldsmith suggested that as an update a comms paper could be written about the priorities and the present funding available, together with the continued search for new funding streams. Cllr Rowan-Robinson suggested that this could include a summary/ vision paper to bring together all of the project strands. Cllr Goldsmith offered to draft an update. Results of latest stakeholder consultations to be obtained.</p> <p><i>6.45pm Cllr Beavan left the meeting.</i></p> <p>SCC Footpaths – SCC have been asked re topping. Cllr Ladd advised that most footpaths in Suffolk are muddy and that SCC Rights of Way officer should be asked for advice about what could be done with footpaths. Encourage link with SCC/ ESC Walking/Cycling Strategy. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that there were more people walking at the moment.</p> <p>Cllr Ladd funding – SCC did put £300k into 20/20 fund and some of this is for footpath improvement works. Approach SCC for finance too.</p>
6	Leisure and Other matters	<p><i>Tiles on wall at back of Electricity Green – replace direct on wall – Cllr Jordan to update.</i></p> <p><i>Skatepark improvements</i> – existing park is well worn and has been heavily repaired. It is very battered and will need to be taken down sometime soon. Carl Hurr to be contacted as he has a stakeholder group that can be consulted to try and advance a funding application to try and install a new one by Spring. Cllr Ladd suggested that the Southwold Trust could be approached via the RDC – to help the skatepark project as they are an organisation established to get funding for sport and recreation.</p> <p><i>Phone kiosk by Pier</i> - £2k donation from a resident has been offered to install a defib at the Phone Box. Cllr Tobin has offered to assist with the project as he was the lead on the Victoria Street defib installation. It was agreed by the cttee to accept both offers. All agreed. Unanimous.</p> <p><i>Any Other Business</i></p> <p>December – STC budget for 21/22 will be prepared. L and E Delegated budget request will need to be included within budget setting. L and E will need to ensure that budget for 20/21 has been reviewed and priorities to be included for 21/22 i.e. Ferry Road garden, Path across marshes, Skatepark. Town Clerk to prepare a paper to circulate to members.</p>
7	Date of next meeting	L & E Budget setting meeting to be held on Monday 30 th November 2020 at 6pm.