

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6.30pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.**

**AGENDA**

Item	Subject	Details
1	<b>Present</b>	Cllrs Goldsmith, Jordan, Rowan-Robinson, Sutton, Windell. Also present 2 members of the public and the Town Clerk.
2	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	Apologies were received from Cllr Beavan.
3	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	To note the minutes of the previous meeting. Noted.
	<b>Standing Orders- public section.</b>	<p><b>Control Boards</b> Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that new control boards have been installed by the Bailey Bridge but he had noted that the water was now seeping under the boards so new boards are likely to be required.</p> <p>A member of the public agreed with this comment and stated that the water levels are very good at present which is good for the ground nesting birds. Also there has been an increased number of geese and ducks this year. The member of the public was asked if they could document what has been happening with regards to the birds on the marsh this year.</p> <p><b>Alexander</b> A member of the public advised that they had been cutting alexander on North Road. They mentioned that there is some on Ferry Road Garden, and on a patch next to it.</p> <p><b>Hemlock</b> Discussion then took place about Hemlock on a patch of the Common opposite the Rugby Club. The member of the public advised that this needs to be eliminated completely. Cllr Windell and the Town Clerk to research how best this could take place.</p> <p><b>Cttee membership</b> Cllr Windell advised that as Town Mayor he would now become an ex officio member of L&amp;E rather than a full voting member and therefore there would be a vacancy on the Committee.</p>
5	<b>Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ferry Road Garden</b> — update – Cllr Goldsmith has met with Champain Landscapes and provided them with all the feedback which they will consider as they further develop a scheme for the garden. Cllr Goldsmith will advise them about the Talking Benches to see if one would be appropriate for the garden and Cllr Sutton will provide details of the manufacturer of the seat that he used for his family.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Goldsmith advised that one of the sponsors has mentioned that the willow canopy would need a lot of maintenance and other options will now be considered.</p> <p>Champain Landscapes have advised that the area would need to be treated before they can arrange to replant – in view of the non-spraying policy of the Town Council, this will need further discussion and consideration.</p>

Cllr Goldsmith asked whether the trees could be purchased by Champaign Landscapes now as many of the nurseries are getting out of stock – this was agreed by all. Funding for this project is as follows - Town Council £6k, SCC Locality Budget £2k, other sponsors £4k. A member of the public has approached the Council and asked if they could donate £250 towards the purchase of a tree and then have a memorial plaque underneath it and this was agreed by all.

- **Tree planting – update** - Discussion took place about tree planting on the Common and a member of the public advised that there are several areas on the Common where tree planting could take place.
- **Horse Chestnut saplings** – a member of the public had advised that they have some Horse Chestnut saplings which they would be willing to donate for the Town Council/Common Trust. Members advised that they had no objection in principal but would need to consider where these are placed. Cllr Windell and Mr Hancock and Mr Nicholls to work together on this project.
- **Common Trust and Marshes Suffolk Wildlife Trust Management Plan**  
*AONB Sustainable Development Fund* – Deadline 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Common Trust application for Waters Copse has been submitted. JM Environmental have submitted an application to the AONB for the funding, to continue the project at Waters Copse which originated from the Southwold Marshes and Common Suffolk Wildlife Trust action plan. Funding request is for £3,650 for the restoration of elm trees, hedge, gorse, installation of bird boxes and an information panel.

*HLF Funding application* – boating lake and surrounds. JM Environmental advise that the Town Council has been successful in round 1 of the funding application and they have been advised that this application can now progress to stage 2 of the process. JM Environmental will progress this during the summer months for submission later in the year.

*RDP grant* – footpath trail and improvements. The application for a grant from the RDP has been approved for a total of £42,230 which is 100% of the eligible expenditure applied for. This grant will enable improvements to the footpaths providing interpretation boards and information signage along a total route from the town to the harbour and marshes of approximately 5km and provide funding for 6 seats and 4 nature carvings. Project management fees to deliver the project are in the region of £6,500 and it was agreed by all that this could be covered from the L&E budget for 2021/22.

**It is the recommendation of the Committee that the RDP grant of £42,230 be accepted. Grant spend to be completed by 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

The Project Manager to hold further meetings with stakeholders and interested parties during the summer to agree appropriate final styles and designs.

*Dogs on lead signs/ Boards for Buss Creek footpath* – the Committee were advised that the dogs on lead signs are now on the gates across the marsh and appropriate wording will need to be included on the information boards for the footpaths.

An outstanding item from the report is the board on Buss Creek footpath and this to be considered at a later date.

6	<b>Leisure and Other matters</b>	<p><i>Tiles on wall at back of Electricity Green</i> – It was agreed by all that Graham Goffin should be asked to affix the tiles directly onto the wall as soon as possible. Thea Cutting to be asked to make any required missing tiles from the top line of the mural.</p> <p><i>Skatepark improvements</i> – Work to the main ramp has been completed and the ramp is being used. The grind box still needs to be repaired and is barred off. It is hoped that these works will be completed by the beginning of June. Next step will be to start a fundraising initiative with members of the community for a new facility at this location.</p> <p><i>Defib in Phone kiosk by Pier</i> – the Committee were advised that the defib for the phone box at the end of Pier Avenue is due to be fitted w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June. Once fitted the phone box will then need to be thoroughly cleaned and the availability of the defib promoted via newsletter, social media, Organ/Gazette etc.</p> <p><i>Charter Fair</i> — the fair arrived yesterday and, as it is not in Aldeburgh for the Bank Holiday, will be opening on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The fair would usually open next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 but in view of the Saturday opening and the unavailability of the Bellman for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June it had been agreed that the opening by the Town Council would take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (the day the fair will actually open this year), but that in view of Covid, it would be appropriate to do this as a more low key affair and robes will therefore not be worn on this occasion. It is hoped the usual traditional opening will be able to take place in 2022.</p> <p><i>Civic Sunday arrangements</i> – moved to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Noted.</p> <p><i>Church Celebration service</i> – Cllr Sutton advised that the church is considering holding a celebration service on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to which the Town Council will be invited.</p> <p><i>Finger posts</i> – a request had been received for a new fingerpost to be located at the junction of High Street/Fieldstile Road signposting to the community facilities including the Arts Centre, the School, Tibbys Green play area, the Library, St Edmunds Church and the Old Hospital Hub. Having considered the request, it was agreed that this could be picked up within the RDP funding subject to the necessary location licences being approved.</p>
7	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<p>It was suggested that JM Environmental be asked to provide an update to members of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Marshes and Common Management Plan action points together with those for which funding has been applied for/received together with an analysis of the costs for completing the rest of the plan. Suggested that a meeting around the w/c 5<sup>th</sup> July would be appropriate. Town Clerk to arrange.</p>

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL L AND E MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS. THE TOWN COUNCIL ABIDES BY THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT 2012.