

**LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT Minutes from meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at  
10am  
REP L and E 5/2022**

**AGENDA**

Item	Subject	Details
2	<b>Present</b>	Cllrs Goldsmith (PG) – Chair, Jordan (JJ), Rowan-Robinson (MRR), and Sutton (JS). The Town Clerk and one member of the public.
3	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	Apologies were received from Cllr Beavan- these were noted. Apologies also received from Cllr Bradbury – these were approved as per absence policy.
4	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	See notes of the previous meeting. Noted.
5	<b>Skatepark Group</b>	Written update received. Group is still raising funds and they have applications lodged with the Reydon and Southwold Trusts.
6	<b>Standing Orders- public section.</b>	<p>A member of the public asked when the volunteers will be needed for Ferry Rd Garden – Contractor will contact them direct.</p> <p>A member of the public provided suggestions for a location for a boardwalk along the Denes – suggesting that a walkway could be provided from the Harbour car park. It was suggested that the AONB might fund such a project. MRR to meet with the member of public to assess the area. This area is owned by ESC and an approach will need to be made to ESC to progress.</p> <p>A member of the public asked about the dam boards at the sluice and whether there might need to be another board for the winter. Culvert under railway line has apparently not been cleared for 2 years.</p> <p>A member of the public mentioned that water voles are present around Blackshore.</p>
7	<b>Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Boardwalk</i> – see above re harbour end. See previous minutes regarding suggestion of a walkway to enable the beach wheelchair to get closer to the seashore (as per the one at Lowestoft). <b>Action - Council to work with Kessingland PC, who also would like such a provision, in liaising with ESC about funding and viability.</b></li> <li>• <i>Ferry Road Garden</i> – Update E mail from Champaign read to meeting. Some employees have been at the garden this week placing in the willow screening. Planting is due to start 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. JS offered to assist. <b>Action - PG to remind contractor of the need to remove the dead trees and to move those that have been planted by the workshop as previously agreed.</b></li> <li>• <i>Signage/ town trail update</i> – Sculptures/information boards have been installed and the Sky seats at Pier car park moved. Many compliments received about the project. Discussion about comments received on the location of some, and these will be forwarded to JM Environmental.</li> </ul>

		<p>Discussion about providing access from Ferry Rd to the Waters Copse Bridge – and it was suggested that steps could be installed at the side of the workshop to provide access onto the Ferry footpath, rather than providing access at the rear of the garden. Bridge is complete. <b>Action - Waters Copse sign can now be installed by the bridge, and this will be installed by the volunteers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Marshes management including ditch, sluice and culvert works</i> There are no works pending and no issues with the management of the water levels as there is not much water in the ditches. The funding scheme for 2023 from NE has been delayed and the tenant is unlikely to hear whether they have been successful for some time. As capital improvement works had been included in the grant application, it is now uncertain when these will be carried out. <b>Action – discussion with tenant to be arranged.</b> MRR advised that swamp weed is still a concern to NE on the area called the Flash/Splash. MRR suggested that the council could ask NE for an interim assessment of areas of concern. <b>Action – clerk to contact NE regarding such an assessment.</b></li> <li>• <i>Sewage in the sea</i> – MRR checks the EA page on beach cleanliness. Denes area - Tests to 25<sup>th</sup> Oct are clear - there is not sewage in the sea at Southwold. Other areas in the UK do have concerns. MRR will continue to monitor.</li> </ul>
8	Leisure and Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>First Light event Oct 2022.</i> As part of First Light a Southwold event was held on 22nd Oct 2022 – event organised by First Light Ltd. Feedback included good event, could have been publicised more, not many local organisations supported the event. Discussion about using the green as the venue – worked well for this size event although little passing trade.</li> <li>• <i>Signage/ town trail update</i> – Sculptures/information boards installed as above. Excellent feedback received from AONB regarding the project. They would be keen to receive other applications from the council. Thanks extended to JM Environmental for all of their work on these projects.</li> <li>• <i>Shelter on North Parade</i> – Work taking place on an extension to the information boards project to include some for the North Parade Shelter.</li> <li>• <i>Rospa inspections</i> – undertaken in September. Norse have a new play inspector who is undertaking the regular inspections in Southwold.</li> <li>• <i>Xmas Lights 2022</i> –The business association has struggled to get help to get the event organised as intended. Help with arrangements has recently been requested and is being given by members of the previous Xmas lights cttee, 4 High Street businesses, and the staff at town hall are now assisting with the admin including arranging the road closure/first aid/insurance/risk assessments etc. Consideration to be given to who will be taking on the event from 2023 – letters have been sent to all High Street businesses explaining that as per their request there will be no street event this year – the switch on of the lights will be on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov – and asking for volunteers to come forward to organise the 2023 switch on. The event has been run by volunteers for many years, with financial assistance from the town council, Adnams and a small number of other businesses and it is hoped that volunteers will again come forward to organise an event for 2023 and to start the fundraising which will be required.</li> <li>• <i>Coronation</i> – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Discussion about holding an event. After the success of the Jubilee, it was suggested that council could look to put on an event on Gun Hill potentially including Music, Band, picnics, Adnams</li> </ul>

		<p>outside bar, Coffee van, ending with fireworks. Budget to be added for 2023-2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tiles to go back on electricity green</i> – all tiles sorted and now need to be cleaned, and put onto a hard backing, before hanging back on wall. PG to chase the works and update JS.</li> <li>• <i>Extension of footfall counters to other areas</i> – Cost has been received for adding footfall counter to harbour area and for adding an additional Wi fi hotspot from East Street to Gun Hill. Cost in region of £15k. <b>Action - As this is an ESC funded project, ESC to be asked if they have additional funds to do the above. Harbour mgt cttee to also be approached.</b></li> <li>• <i>Memorial Bench</i> – Queen Elizabeth II – Councils have been provided with details of benches that can be purchased. Discussion – Jubilee Oak already planted, and it was felt that it would be better to consider something other than a seat – perhaps renaming North Parade Shelter</li> <li>• <i>Blue Plaque Scheme</i> – Museum had previously been asked if they could proceed with the research required for the scheme but in 2020 advised that they did not have sufficient resources. MRR offered to update the original paper that he wrote about the scheme so that this can be considered again.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	TBC

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