

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm at the Town Hall** for the purpose of transacting the following business;**

Signed

*L. J. Beard*

Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

This meeting is being held in person in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1972.

**Minutes of the meeting of SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**AGENDA**

Item	Subject	Details
1	<b>Present</b>	Cllrs Rowan Robinson, Goldsmith, Bradbury and Sutton. Town Clerk James Mellish – JM Environmental (on zoom -- left after agenda item 5) And one member of the public (at Town Hall).
2	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	Apologies received from Cllr Jordan
3	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	To note the minutes of the previous meeting - Noted
	<b>Standing Orders- public section.</b>	Nil
5	<b>Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ferry Road Garden — Cllr Goldsmith advised that there was no further update at present. The consultants are in contact with Mrs Hadgraft regarding a tree that she has requested be planted there. Timescales are that the project will commence in January 2022 – there will be no charge for labour.</li> <li>• Horse Chestnut saplings – no update.</li> <li>• Climate projects – no update since forums at Arts Centre held in Nov 2021. Another event will be held in March 2022.</li> <li>• Marshes management – way forward. Cllr Rowan–Robinson advised that an initial discussion had been held with Natural England regarding the future funding opportunities for the marshes as the present Higher Tier Stewardship ceases in Feb 2022. A new scheme is being introduced – Agri Environmental Scheme/ Countryside Stewardship Scheme – which will be a 5-year scheme from 2023. (See conf note Nov 2021 for full details). NE explained that it would expect the Town Council, as landowner, to apply for the funding and take on the responsibility for the management of the marshes direct, or through an approved third party. With assistance from NE, James Mellish will apply for the funding on behalf of the Town Council – funding opens March – May 2022. A meeting will be held in January with an ‘approved third party’ to discuss the implications and options for the way forward. RPA funding for footpath trail, improved signage and seating.</li> </ul>

		<p>James Mellish reminded all that the funding had been approved. He has subsequently met with various Councillors and members of the community who have assisted with the writing of the text for the 5 pieces of signage. Research has also been undertaken through the museum and other organisations in the town in regard to specific items within the text for the 14 interpretation panels and appropriate photographs are also being obtained. James showed the text to date on the zoom to those present and will forward this so that it can be considered further for accuracy. James will also meet with the museum to fact check the historical information. Golf Club to fact check their information and provide a photograph. James to receive updates and corrections by 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 in order that these can be progressed. 4 carvings are being commissioned – suggested designs discussed, and James received approval from the cttee members to liase with contractor on the feasibility of the specific designs.</p> <p>The 3 sky seats have been ordered and there will be a bench for watching the Flash area.</p> <p>Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised the meeting that the marshes dam is now working again which suits the requirements of the birds for the water levels on the Buss Creek marshes. In the longer term this will need new boards and some refurbishment.</p> <p>Regarding the control of the waters on the marshes – the grazier did not feel that a new culvert is required by the harbour road as the issue is more about getting the water out of the sluice. An outlet from the Golf Club dyke was suggested, with a pump to get water out at Blackshore. It was felt that the cost of a pump may be prohibitive. The meeting was advised that the Golf Club has cleared the dykes around the practice area.</p> <p>‘Dirty beach’ media coverage. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that there had been recent media coverage regarding this matter. However, the ‘Denes’ had been deemed as satisfactory which is not the worst category, and was therefore felt to be misleading. It was suggested that the Ward Cllr should counter this media coverage and be asked to keep Council updated on the situation.</p>
6	<b>Leisure and Other matters</b>	<p><i>James Mellish left the meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skatepark improvements – the Town Clerk provided feedback from the joint ESC/ STC/ community members meeting – at which a member of the community asked that proposals for a new skate facility at the Klondyke be considered. The member of the public was going to raise the suggestion on social media to gauge community feedback. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that younger members of the community presently use the facility too and that this should be borne in mind when designing any upgrade.</li> <li>• Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – community meeting is being held 10<sup>th</sup> Dec on zoom and an update will be circulated to all.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on other matters previously agreed. Bulbs/ seeds – it was agreed to approve the £79.96 receipt for the bulbs/ seeds.</li> </ul> <p>Work of L and E cttee – it was suggested that as the remit of the cttee is so large, and many members of the public are not aware of all the good work being carried out by the cttee, then a further media release should be made in the New Year to update the community. Agreed.</p>
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	Next cttee meeting date to be set for Jan/ Feb 2022.

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.