

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee
held on **Wednesday 31st July at 9.00am at the Town Hall****

Minutes

Item	Subject	Details
1	Present	Cllrs Flunder (SF), Goldsmith (PG) Palmer (MP), Redington (VR) and Wells (MW). Also present the Town Clerk.
2	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Apologies were received from Cllr Miller
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	To note the minutes of the previous meeting - notes from June 24
4	Standing Orders-public section.	<i>Nil</i>
5	Environmental matters – timelines and completion dates	<p>Cllr Flunder provided members with a debrief of the visit to Ravensingham Hall where himself and Cllr Davy had been shown around the estate and provided with information about how they manage cattle, dykes, nesting birds etc. Chinese water deer are the greatest issue on the estate.</p> <p>It was mentioned that rats / rabbits are both an issue along the upper prom – but ESC does not seem to have a policy that covers control.</p> <p><i>Ferry Road Garden and surrounds and Connection of Jubilee Bridge to Ferry Rd Garden.</i> The sign for the garden is being organised. There are a lack of volunteers offering to look after the garden. Champaign Landscapes are doing some work monthly at the garden as well as that at the front of town. It was suggested that contact be made with New Leaf, for whom there are a list of regular jobs which they could be asked to consider within the town – both for STC as well as Common Trust.</p> <p>Grant for Ferry Rd Garden steps – council has just been advised that this application has been successful – thanks were extended to James Mellish for all of his work on funding and implementing these projects.</p> <p>Discussion re land next to Ferry Rd Garden – it was suggested that this land be registered in the name of STC alongside that of the garden and workshop.</p> <p>Bulbs – <i>ESC initiative</i> – await decision.</p> <p><i>Cllr Flunder left at 9.30am</i></p>
6	Leisure and Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skatepark –opening is taking place on 15th August at midday. • Shelter on North Parade - project complete and photos will be taken by the media on 15th August. Thanks, were again extended to Chris Webster and James Mellish for all of their work on this project. • Community Payback – have started on the railings along the seafront. • Community self-help scheme – There are a number of projects which the New Leaf group could be asked to assist with – contact to be made with them to see what

		<p>training they have undertaken, which will determine what projects might be appropriate.</p> <p>Other volunteers have come forward who would be willing to undertake the Community Self Help Training as provided by SCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingerpost for Field Stile Road – New finger has been ordered and awaiting installation of the post and fingers. • Public wi fi project – the project is being progressed by Proximity Futures and Esc with the grant monies made available to STC, alongside some funding from STC. • Stocks from Bartholomew Green – installed – project completed. • Play area repairs – New surfacing is required for under the play equipment at the Klondyke. Cost of mulch/ bark received from ESS, and these are in region of £26k for mulch and £15k for bark. Other quotes to be obtained. Cllr Palmer to assist with other contacts. (Subsequent to meeting, the play area has been taped off until new flooring is put down). • Town Sign repairs – another person has been asked to quote. The sign is now rapidly rotting and in need of substantial works to restore it. • Electricity Green - comments have been received about the untidiness of the area, Cllr Goldsmith will have a look and speak to the volunteers.
7	To consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidy Up Southwold Day / General look of town – Discussion about the general look of town – specifically about weeds growing along side the boundary of houses/ businesses etc. <p>Complaints have been received about weeds along the prom too. This has been referred to ESC who advise that they do not have sufficient resources to be weeding all the time. They advise that all other towns allow weed spraying and that STC is the only one who does not. This means that weeds are not killed off and it takes too much resource to eradicate/ carry out hoeing on them.</p> <p>After full discussion it was agreed by all to recommend that, in line with other towns, STC permit ESC to use weed spray again in Southwold.</p> <p>This will allow weeds to be sprayed and then about 2 weeks later they can be pulled out of the ground.</p> <p>This could then fit in well as part of a Tidy Up Southwold day – perhaps on a Sunday morning in late September / early October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VE Day 80th Anniversary – 8th May 2025. Government guidelines have been sent out for communities to consider how to take part in this anniversary. <p>It was suggested that the local food outlets/ pubs could be asked to do something in Southwold. It was suggested that perhaps the Arts Centre could take part in the anniversary by having a swing band at the Centre. Cllr Redington offered to liase with the Arts Centre.</p> <p>Town Council to contact the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for an event - Southwold Half Marathon The organiser of events in Norfolk has contacted the clerk about having a half marathon which could start and finish in Southwold. <p>Members felt that a run which took in Southwold, Walberswick, Blythburgh would be more feasible than trying to take in Wrentham Rd/ Potters Bridge – especially as the organisers suggest Spring 2025. Clerk to make contact with the feedback of the meeting.</p>
8	Date of next meeting	24 th September at 9am.

Recommendations

The Cttee recommend that, in line with other towns, and in accordance with the council desire to keep the town looking tidy for residents and visitors, STC permit ESC to use weed spray again in Southwold.