

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY, 2017

Present: Councillor: M Eager - Chairman
Councillors: R Barnes M Eakin
E Fieldhouse K Francis
A Manns N Morris
J Simpson H Wilce

In Attendance: Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council

E.15 - 02.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Baker, A Crowe, J Roberts and N Roberts.

E.16 - 02.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Eager declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6.1 public seating (E.20 - 02.17 refers)

E.17 - 02.17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

E.18 - 02.17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2017, copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record.

E.19 - 02.17 DOG HILL WOOD

The Chairman advised that he and Cllr Francis had met on site with the Tree Warden and the Town Council's coppicing contractor to look at two issues the contractor wished to bring to the Council's attention.

- 1) Felling of two oak trees to allow more light on to the woodland floor - to encourage sapling growth.
- 2) Signs of suspected ash dieback – contractor to keep a watching brief.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to make the following

Recommendation to Full Council: That the felling works be approved and that costs for works to be defrayed by the contractor in return for felled wood.

For the benefit of new Councillors, a walk around the wood will be arranged in the spring.

E.20 - 02.17 TOWN CENTRE

1. Public seating

Members further considered a request from a local resident for public seating in The Homend; copies of a plan showing suggested locations had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman reported that he had hand delivered 50 letters to properties on both sides of the street between Bank Crescent and the Old Cottage Hospital. (refer E.07-01.17,2). No replies had been received at the time of the meeting.

Ledbury & District Society Trust had commented that the only place that they felt a bench can be sited was in front of the Old Cottage Hospital.

Members felt that the other suggested locations would be obstructive to pedestrians, particularly those with visual impairment.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to make the following

Recommendation to Full Council: That subject to permissions, a bench (from stock) be installed in the Old Cottage Hospital location.

2. Hanging Basket column

Members considered the replacement of the hanging basket column in The Homend (outside the sports shop) which had been damaged in a road traffic incident. It was noted that a second column (outside the Homend Mall) had also been removed due to an accident some years earlier.

Cllr Eager declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item, as owner of a property in the location.

RESOLVED: That costs be obtained for the replacement and installation of two hanging basket columns in The Homend.

E.21 - 02.17 RECREATION GROUND

Members discussed the replacement of play equipment in time for the summer holidays. Quotations for the replacement of three pieces of equipment had been presented to the committee in October 2016 and agreed in principle, subject to grant funding being obtained.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to make the following

Recommendation to Full Council: To go ahead with the replacement of the two smaller pieces of equipment replacing the toddler unit and straight slide from within the 2017/18 budget.

A small task and finish group comprising Cllrs Eager, Fieldshouse and Simpson will work on putting together an application for funding to help cover costs for a climbing unit to replace the igloo.

E.22 - 02.17 WORKING PARTIES AND TASK & FINISH GROUPS

1. Christmas Lights Working Party

Members received a report from the meeting held on 31st January, 2017, copies having been circulated.

Recommendation to Full Council: That the report be approved and adopted.

2. Events Task & Finish Group

Members received a report from the meeting held on 31st January, 2017, copies having been circulated.

Recommendation to Full Council: That the report be approved and adopted.

3. Events

The Chairman gave a verbal report from the Councillor sub group meeting held on 13th February, 2017 to discuss Ledbury Town Council's involvement in the The Great Ledbury Celebration/400th anniversary of Ledbury Market House, on Sunday 9th July 2017.

Whilst there was general support for the event, members felt that due to a lack of manpower, the Council's role should be more about facilitating rather than organising the event, and did not wish to lose sight of the reason for their involvement, being that of the 400th anniversary of the Market House.

The committee considered the following recommendations for proposed expenditure to be met from the Events budget line:

PA system £600.00

Road Closure £125.00 tbc

Manning barriers £150.00 tbc

First Aid provision £1,000 tbc (to be further considered by the working group)

Signage £100.00 tbc

Recommendation to Full Council: To approve proposed expenditure in the estimated sum of £975, (excluding first aid provision), from the Events budget line for 2017/18.

A written report will be circulated with the Minutes for the 2nd March Full Council meeting.

4. Grant Funding

The Chairman gave a verbal report from the Task & Finish Group meeting held on 13th February 2017.

Cllrs Crowe and Fieldhouse together with a local resident with grant application experience had volunteered to complete any grant funding applications, as and when projects are identified. Suggested projects had included holding an open 'Town Picnic' event/consultation event on the the Recreation Ground on Community Day and upgrading play and skatepark equipment on the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: To apply for funding for a Town Picnic event on Community Day

RESOLVED: To hold a Recreation Ground Working Party meeting to discuss improvements to the Skate Park and play areas. Cllrs Wilce and Simpson to join existing Working Party.

E.23 - 02.17 CORRESPONDENCE - for information

Nothing to report.

E.24 - 02.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 16th March, 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm

Chairman Date