

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TOWN HALL

Present

Councillors: Christine Wheeler (Chair), Richard Stubbings, Sam Hunt, Barry Darch, Colin Hill, Jeff Harris, Gillian Birrell, Chris Greenhill, Stevie Bubb, Nathalie Chidley, Peter Shannon, Krista Booker, and Philippa Drew.

In Attendance: Candi Turner (Deputy Secretary)
Paul Cunningham (Secretary)

Members of the Public: 0

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Daniel Smith and Tarek Lahin.

2. To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

There were none.

3. To approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

5. To receive the draft minutes of the Development, Commerce, and strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2024

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the above meeting.

Cllr Stubbings noted that the proposed location for the canoe pontoon belongs to

the Crown Estate.

6. To receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024

Cllr Stubbings reported that the committee agreed to work with the Golf Club regarding their proposal to maintain their fairways, greens, and tees. The committee agreed to the purchase of 4 new benches for the Marsh Trail. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary are investigating quotes for the potential overflow carpark adjacent to the Scout and Guide hut and will put in a CiL bid. Cllr Stubbings proposed acceptance of the recommendation for pedestrian access to the Scout and Guide Hall from Common Lane. This was seconded by Cllr Shannon and was therefore,

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the above meeting and to agree the recommendation for pedestrian access to the Scout and Guide Hall from Common Lane.

7. To consider the draft contract from East Suffolk Services for managing trust lands

Cllr Stubbings was alarmed at the cost of litter picking and bin emptying services within the contract and suggested that the litter picking should be removed and instead this should be conducted by the council and trust employees. Cllr Birrell said that the need for a frequent litter pick should only be conducted through the summer months. The Secretary said that the council's Town Centre cleaner could probably litter pick the play area at Beccles Common, but the area at the quay was too large and this would be an unrealistic request. He suggested that instead the litter picking could be reduced to 26 weeks per year.

Cllr Stubbings suggested that the trust should reduce the number of bins at the common and replace them with 120L bins which are much cheaper per lift.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that the trust agree to the grass cutting element of the contract but remove litter picks at the common play area, reduce litter picks to 26 weeks per year at Beccles Quay, and reduce the number and volume of bins on Beccles Common. This was seconded by councillor Hunt and was therefore,

RESOLVED To remove from the ESS contract litter picks of the common play area and reduce the number of litter picks at Beccles Quay to 26 weeks per year, and to reduce the number of bins and replace with 120L bins.

8. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for March 2024

RESOLVED To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for March 2024

9. Any Other Business

The Mayor informed Councillors that she had joined a meeting with Ian Larter from A1 regarding the possibility of taking over the old recycling site. £6,000 in annual rent would be required. Ian Larter is going to investigate further and arrange another meeting.

The Secretary informed Councillors that the Ranger started in his new role on the day of the meeting. Cllr Stubbings asked if the Ranger could look at the weir by Marsh 50.

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday 7th May 2024 following the Town Council meeting

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 7th May 2024 in Council Chamber at Town Hall.