

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Present

Councillors: Richard Stubbings (Chair), Ash Lever, Barry Darch, Nick Johnson, Graham Catchpole, Gillian Birrell, Jeff Harris, Phil Dennington, Brian Woodruff, Daniel Smith and Peggy McGregor.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)

Members of the Public: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jack Walmsley, Stevie Bubb, Jennie Robinson and Nathalie Chidley.

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 2nd November 2021

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

5. To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th November

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2021.

6. To receive the draft minutes of the Assets and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Assets and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021.

Cllr Birrell explained that the Committee had considered the budget proposals from Finance Committee, and that the Assets Committee were suggesting three changes to the budget (adding a budget line for signage of £1,000, changing budget line 28 (skateboard maintenance) to 'skateboard maintenance and improvement' and increasing this by £1,000, and removing the budget line for 'Goose Green Gardens' of £500, as this refers to the Community Orchard site, which is now a Town Council asset) which together amounted to an increase in expenditure of £1,500.

Cllr Birrell proposed that the revised budget be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To approve the draft budget, incorporating the three changes proposed by the Assets Committee.

7. To receive an update on the gas work being carried out by Cadent on the Common

Cllr Stubbings noted the email from Cadent that the Secretary had circulated. He noted that Cadent were planning a temporary repair to the main on the Common, as they now need to complete a substantial repair all the way back to St. Anne's Road.

8. To receive an update on the following projects that the Trust is currently undertaking:

i. Gas Dyke dredging

Cllr Stubbings noted that the dredging work has now been completed. He reported that the Working Party members had met with several boat owners to resolve the outstanding issue with mooring poles in the dyke, and he reported that a group of moorers had agreed to erect these poles, under the supervision of the Harbour Master. At the meeting one of the moorers had indicated that he would be able to obtain poles free of charge, but subsequently this had not been possible. Cllr Stubbings therefore proposed that the Trust set aside a budget of £500 to purchase poles. This was seconded by Cllr Harris, a vote was taken that was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To allocate a budget of £500 to purchase scaffolding poles to be used as mooring poles in the Gas Dyke.

ii Quay Play Park

Cllr Lever reported that the Working Party had approved the new plans and terms and conditions from Playdale, and that the order for the equipment has now been placed.

Cllr Stubbings commented that there was a need for a path providing disabled access to the Play park from the path alongside the Quay, and he noted that this will need to be investigated separately.

iii Toilet block refurbishment

Cllr Catchpole reported that he and the Secretary had met with the architect to confirm the plans. He reported that the architect had confirmed that it would not be

possible to add an additional cubicle in the ladies toilets. Cllr Catchpole further confirmed that the internal door to the plant room had been reinstated, to allow the cleaner internal access across the building.

Secretary noted that the architect had yet to include the improvements to the kitchen and bathroom in the Harbour Master's office, and Secretary was asked to chase the architect for the revised specification.

Cllr Catchpole noted that it may not be possible to complete the work before the Summer season, and he stressed the importance of advertising the project as soon as possible.

Secretary asked what arrangements were required for access to the public toilets during the Christmas closing period. Cllr Harris proposed that the Secretary be given delegated authority to negotiate with cleaning and company and Norse to arrange reasonable access. This was seconded by Cllr Birrell, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To give the Secretary delegated authority to negotiate with cleaning company and Norse to arrange reasonable public access to the Quay toilets over the Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Stubbings noted that, because of the flood boards, there is no disabled access to the Quay in the winter months, and he noted the need to resolve this, in conjunction with the Environment Agency.

9. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for December

RESOLVED To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for December.

10. Any Other Business

Secretary circulated details of the 'Treebillee' offer from East Suffolk Council to provide an oak tree for each town and parish, and it was agreed to accept this offer, noting that a site to plant it would need to be agreed.

11. Date of next meeting Tuesday 11th January 2022 following the Town Council meeting

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 11th January 2022, in the Council Chamber.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

12. To receive the draft confidential minutes of the Assets and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021

RESOLVED to receive the draft confidential minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021.

Secretary asked for permission to inform the Sports and Social Club of the Committee's decision, as this was decided in confidential session, and this was agreed.

Cllr Catchpole commented that this was a significant proposal, and that he believed that this should have been discussed first by the Full Trust. Cllr Stubbings apologised and suggested that the full Trust could consider the full plans, as the Trust do not have enough information, such as a business plan and more information regarding planning permission.

Following some further discussion, Cllr Stubbings proposed that the current proposals be added to the full Trust agenda for the January meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To consider the Sports and Social Club proposal at the January Full Trust meeting.