

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2022 IN HUNGATE HALL

Present

Councillors: Richard Stubbings (Chair), Ash Lever, Barry Darch, Nick Johnson, Graham Catchpole, Stevie Bubb, Nathalie Chidley, Colin Hill, Phil Dennington, Jack Walmsley (until the end of Item 4 only), Gillian Birrell, Peggy McGregor, Jennie Robinson, Jeff Harris and Brian Woodruff.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)

Members of the Public: 4

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Daniel Smith.

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

There were none.

3. To receive a presentation from Sports and Social Club on their plans for extending the Social Club premises

Patrick Wilson from Beccles Sports and Social Club gave a presentation on the Club's proposals to extend the Club premises.

Councillors asked a number of questions to Patrick and Mark Jerney about the proposals, including parking issues at the site.

4. To consider a Trust response to the Sports and Social Club proposals

Several councillors expressed concerns regarding the lack of parking at the site and that any development needs to address this issue.

Richard Stubbings suggested that the Club produce a business plan to show the viability of the project. He proposed that the Trust should support the development in principle and set up a Working Party to discuss the issues raised in more detail. This was seconded by Gillian Birrell, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To support the proposal in principle and to set up a Working Party to discuss the issues raised in more detail.

Graham Catchpole, Jennie Robinson, Richard Stubbings, Gillian Birrell and Ash Lever agreed to serve on the Working Party.

(Jack Walmsley left the meeting).

5. To approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Stubbings reported that Cadent had repaired some holes on the Common but not on the car park.

Cllr Lever reported that the Play Park installation would begin on 7th February.

7. To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022.

8. To receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2022

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

9. To consider the most appropriate use for the piece of land adjacent to the tennis courts, off Goose Green East

Richard Stubbings outlined the background to this item and he gave an update concerning an issue which had arisen on the day of the meeting concerning ownership of and vehicular access to the site. East Suffolk Council own the land adjacent to Goose Green Nurseries, including the nursery entrance. East Suffolk also owns the land in front of the Nursery, which effectively blocks access to the triangle of land in question, as the Trust do not have an easement over the land owned by East Suffolk. Cllr Stubbings commented that the Nursery would have a good case for an easement based on twenty-five years of usage but that access to the Trust-owned land remains problematic.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that a Working Party be set up to clarify the access issues before any decision can be taken concerning the letting of the triangular piece of land, with interested parties being invited to join the Working Party. This was seconded by Cllr Birrell, a vote was taken which was in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED To set up a Working Party to clarify the access issues to the triangular piece of land off Goose Green East.

Nathalie Chidley, Jennie Robinson, Richard Stubbings, Gillian Birrell and Ash Lever agreed to serve on the Working Party.

10. To agree in principle to fund a ramp at the Quay to allow disabled access to the Quay and the toilet block in winter

Cllr Robinson proposed that approval is given in principle for the Trust to fund a ramp and that the Secretary and Deputy Secretary are asked to investigate further and report back with potential costs at a future meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Chidley, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To approve in principle for the Trust to fund a ramp and that the Secretary and Deputy Secretary are asked to investigate further and report back with potential costs at a future meeting.

11. To consider the request from Beccles Town Football Club for boreholes at both The Nest and College Meadow

Cllr Stubbings proposed that the bore holes be approved, subject to a legal agreement between the Trust and the Football Club being drawn up to cover issues such as borehole installation, operation, maintenance, removal, and reinstatement, and that the Football Club be asked to have an abstraction meter installed at both locations so that they can report their weekly/monthly readings to the Trust. This was seconded by Cllr Birrell, a vote was taken which was in favour, and it was therefore

RESOLVED To approve both bore holes, subject to a legal agreement between the Trust and the Football Club being drawn up to cover issues such as borehole installation, operation, maintenance, removal, and reinstatement, and that the Football Club be asked to have an abstraction meter installed at both locations so that they can report their weekly/monthly readings to the Trust.

12. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for February

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

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Chidley reported that she and Cllr Darch had attended a BAGA Committee meeting, and that Secretary and Deputy Secretary had joined the meeting at the end. Secretary and Cllr Chidley had outlined the Trust's concerns over the funding arrangements for the allotments and the desire to revise and regularise the systems and procedures, including the agreement between the Trust and BAGA. Cllr Chidley noted that the response from the newly elected BAGA Chair had been positive. Cllr Chidley further reported that she, Cllr Darch and the Secretary are working on drawing up proposals.

Cllr Darch asked about the clash of dates between the carnival and the Antiques Fair. Cllr Stubbings replied that the booking for the Antiques Fair to use the Quay had been taken only after the Carnival had given a verbal indication in October that they would not require the Quay in 2022. Cllr Stubbings note that he had agreed to meet with Christine Pinsent to see if a compromise could be found.

14. Date of next meeting Tuesday 1st March 2022 following the Town Council meeting

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 1st March 2022 at Hungate Hall.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

15. To consider tenders received for the toilet block at the Quay

These were discussed.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm