

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

Present

Councillors: Colin Hill (Chair), Richard Stubbings, Barry Darch, Jeff Harris, Gillian Birrell, Stevie Bubb, Peter Shannon, Krista Booker, Sam Hunt, Joe Athorn and Philippa Drew.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)

Members of public: 1

1. Apologies for Absence

- Received from: Daniel Smith, Tarek Lahin, Christine Wheeler and Chris Greenhill. Nathalie Chidley was not present.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

- None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (10th June 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Cllr Booker
- Seconded by: Cllr Darch
- Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2024.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- There were none.

5. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Development Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee (10th June 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Birrell
- Seconded by: Cllr Shannon
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024.

6. **Receipt of Draft Minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (19th June 2024)**

- Cllr Stubbings, as Chair of the committee, noted that plans are in hand to remove the ragwort on the common.
- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Stubbings
- Seconded by: Cllr Drew
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2024.
- Recommendation:

- **To consider increasing the rates for laundry facilities at Beccles Quay and to ask Development Committee to review the rates**

- Cllr Stubbings proposed that the rates be increased to match those charged by laundry facility at Gosford Road.
- Seconded by: Cllr Birrell
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To increase laundry charges at Beccles Quay so that they are in line with those at laundry facility at Gosford Road.

7. **Responsible Financial Officer's Report and Payment Schedules for June 2024**

- Motion to approve: Cllr Darch
- Seconded by: Cllr Athorn
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To approve the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and Schedule of Payments for June 2024.

8. **Consideration of revised quotes for solar Lighting at Quay car park**

- Councillors considered the quote.
- Cllr Stubbings argued that there is a significant amount of daylight for most of the summer, which is the time of heaviest use of the car park, and he therefore argued that there is little need for lighting.
- Cllr Darch disagreed; he noted the forthcoming charges for overnight parking and the need to ensure that this could be done safely. Cllr Birrell noted that developments at the Quay may increase usage of car park in evenings and she suggested that the Trust should provide lighting on health and safety grounds.

- Motion to defer a decision pending a second quote and the outcome of discussions with potential parking providers proposed by: Cllr Harris
- Seconded by: Cllr Birrell
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To defer a decision pending a second quote and the outcome of discussions with potential parking providers.

9. To discuss concerns regarding the Trust's recorded end of year deficits

- Cllr Harris noted concerns over the deficits in the last three years' trust accounts.
- Cllr Stubbings commented that the accounts should be looked at in detail by Finance & Governance Committee. He noted that the trust has a large estate, much of which is not income generating, and therefore that the town council is likely to have to support the trust on an ongoing basis. He commented that it was important that the trust actively sought grants to offset some of its costs.
- Cllr Booker noted that the Quay Development Group is looking at fundraising activities at Quay to generate income.
- Cllr Bubb proposed that Finance & Governance Committee be asked to review the Trust finances.
- Seconded by: Cllr Booker.
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To ask Finance & Governance Committee to review Trust finances.

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr Shannon asked if the trust needed to contribute towards the cost of the signage for the Marsh Trail across A146.
- Cllr Stubbings noted that these signs are being partly funded by town council.
- Cllr Shannon requested that the council have sight of the signs before they are installed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Scheduled for Tuesday 6th August 2024, following the Town Council meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

12. Receipt of Draft confidential minutes from Development Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee (10th June 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Birrell

- Seconded by: Cllr Shannon
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the confidential minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024.

13. Receipt of Draft confidential minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (19th June 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Stubbings
- Seconded by: Cllr Hunt
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the confidential minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2024.

14. Any Other confidential business

- Councillors discussed an issue regarding moorings and agreed a proposal.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8.17pm.

ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item	What?	By Whom?	By When?
6	Increase the charges for laundry facilities so that they are in line with those at Gosford Road	Deputy Secretary	Asap
8	Seek alternative quote for lighting at Quay	Secretary	Asap