

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 2023 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TOWN HALL

Present

Councillors: Christine Wheeler (Chair), Richard Stubbings, Jeff Harris, Paul Osborne, Kirsti Timperley, Nathalie Chidley, Chris Greenhill, Gillian Birrell, Barry Darch, Stephen Sherwood, Colin Hill, Philippa Drew, Tarek Lahin, Daniel Smith and Stevie Bubb.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)
County Councillor Ash Lever

Members of the Public: 0

1. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Sam Hunt.

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 4th April 2023

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

5. To receive the draft minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd May 2023

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the above meeting.

6. To receive the minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 and the draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 and to consider the following recommendation / updates from 24th May meeting

RESOLVED to receive the minutes / draft minutes of the above meeting.

i to authorise essential works to the flap valve at Beccles Quay at a likely cost of £5,500 to £7,500

Cllr Stubbings proposed that these works be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Timperley, a vote was taken which was in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED To authorise essential works to the flap valve at Beccles Quay at a likely cost of £5,500 to £7,500.

ii to agree in principle to using part of Marsh 31 as a dog walking field

Cllr Stubbings gave background about the Trust reclaiming the marsh from the previous tenant. He noted that part of the marsh could be used as an overflow car park and the remaining part could be used as a secure fenced dog walking area. This would be bookable to allow for owners of nervous dogs to exercise their pets in a safe environment. He noted that 'Paws for Tea' had created a paddock for dog walkers, and he was concerned that this would encourage more driving across the common. Councillors discussed this and agreed that more information was needed before making a final decision. Cllr Stubbings then proposed that a full report be presented to the July Trust meeting, and councillors Timperley, Sherwood and Osborne agreed to help with this.

iii to consider a request for homeless people to use shower and laundry facilities at Beccles Quay

Mayor reported that she had held discussions with Harry Woods from Salvation Army, who are willing to provide both laundry and shower facilities at their premises in Blyburgate, but that internal alterations would be needed to the building to allow this, which would in turn require funding. This meant that, in the meantime, the need was still there for the use of the Trust's facilities. She explained that need is hard to gauge but that the Food Bank had suggested that they had seen 7-10 clients who may have need of such facilities. Mayor invited comments from councillors and a discussion ensued. Several councillors requested that usage be restricted to the quietest time of day and Cllr Stubbings proposed that permission be given, subject to agreeing a suitably quiet time (after consulting Harbour Master) and with the use of chaperones. This was seconded by Cllr Birrell, a vote was taken which was in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED To allow the temporary use of the shower facilities at the Quay, provided that the use was in a time slot at the quietest time of day and that suitable chaperones were on hand.

7. To review the Sports & Social Club Extension and Common Lane Parking Working Party

Councillors agreed that this working party should continue. Cllr Osborne agreed to join the group, meaning that the membership would be Cllrs Birrell, Hill, Stubbings,

Wheeler and Osborne.

8. To approve a quote to repair a water leak on Beccles Common

Cllr Stubbings proposed that this quote be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Harris, a vote was taken which was in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED To accept the quote from F.P. Ward to repair the water leak on common.

9. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for April and May 2023

RESOLVED To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and agree the payment schedules for April and May 2023.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Chidley mentioned a range of useful courses being run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Secretary noted that he had an electronic link to these and would distribute this to all councillors.

11. Date of next meeting Tuesday 4th July 2023 following the Town Council meeting

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 4th July 2023 in Council Chamber at Town Hall.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

12. To approve the confidential minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023

RESOLVED to approve the confidential minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

13. To receive the draft confidential minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023

RESOLVED to receive the draft confidential minutes of the above meeting.

14. To receive the draft confidential minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023

RESOLVED to receive the draft confidential minutes of the above meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.09pm.