

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020 REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

Present

Councillors: Mrs A Carr, (Chair), in the chair, A Lever (Deputy Chair), G Birrell, N Brooks, Mrs S A Bubb, G Catchpole, N Chidley, J Harris, R Stubbings, Mrs C Topping, C Wheeler, J Walmsley

Secretary: Claire Boyne, Town Clerk

Also Present: Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw, Suffolk County Council
Councillor G Elliott, East Suffolk Council
Charlie Middleton, Facilities Manager

Members of the Public: 3

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Robinson and Woodruff.

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 3 March 2020

RESOLVED To approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2020

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 18 March 2020 and consider the following recommendations:-

- (i) That the trust contributes £2,500 to the cost of replacing the exterior door of the May Centre with an automated door, and requests further details of the interest generating investments shown in the May Centre's accounts*

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2020

- (i) The chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Stubbings, reported that the trust was responsible for the exterior of the building, and the May Centre were responsible for the interior, under the terms of the lease. The May Centre had raised a significant

Signed.....Chairman 2 June 2020

sum of money to pay for the replacement of the exterior and interior doors with automatic doors, and the Finance Committee was recommending that the trust funds the balance of £2,500.

RESOLVED That the trust contributes £2,500 to the cost of replacing the exterior door of the May Centre with an automated door

6. To receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9 March 2020

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9 March 2020

7. To receive a request from Councillor Catchpole to discuss including Beccles Common and Beccles Quay in the Dogs on Leads – Public Space Protection Order, which is currently being consulted on by East Suffolk Council

Councillor Catchpole explained that he was concerned that the consultation would not be considered and discussed before the deadline. He was particularly concerned regarding the grassed areas at the quay. Families had picnics there, children played there and events were held there in the summer. It was therefore not appropriate to have dogs running around off leads, jumping up at children, and going to the toilet a good distance from the owner resulting in the owner not always picking up the mess.

Councillor Catchpole therefore proposed that the trust requests that the Dogs on Leads order is extended to the grassed areas at Beccles Quay to the north and south of the yacht basin, and that this applies from 1 April to 31st October. Although there was a problem regarding dogs on Beccles Common, Councillor Catchpole was not proposing that this area should be included in the order.

It was pointed out that the vast majority of owners did pick up after their dogs and some councillors did not feel that there was a massive problem with dogs off leads at the quay.

There were questions as to how the Order could be monitored and controlled as many dog owners already ignored the Dogs on Leads Order that was in place on the Sports Pitches off Common Lane. It was suggested that the Harbour Masters could monitor and that it was better to have the rule in place than not, so it could at least be policed if required.

Councillor Brooks seconded the proposal, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That the trust requests that the Dogs on Leads - Public Space Protection Order is extended to the grassed areas at Beccles Quay to the north and south of the yacht basin, and applies from 1 April to 31st October

8. To agree and sign the Transfer Deed in respect of Beccles Quay

The secretary reported that the toilets were missing from the Transfer Deed plan as they had not been registered by East Suffolk Council in error. The registration of this building would therefore be dealt with separately through a Statutory Declaration.

RESOLVED To agree and sign the Transfer Deed in respect of Beccles Quay

9. To grant the Finance and General Purposes Committee delegated authority to make decisions regarding rent reduction requests

Councillor Stubbings, chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, explained that a number of requests for assistance with rents had been received and needed to be reviewed in line with the councils finances, reserves etc and so it was being requested that delegated authority be given to the Finance Committee to make any decisions regarding rent reductions.

Councillor Stubbings made this proposal, this was seconded by Councillor Harris, a vote was taken and it was therefore

RESOLVED To grant the Finance and General Purposes Committee delegated authority to make decisions regarding rent reduction requests

10. To consider a request from Suffolk County Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw to match fund the repairs to Ken Markland Way (the road that leads to the May Centre and Sports pitches off Common Lane South)

It was reported that this land is leased to East Suffolk Council (ESC) and the obligation to maintain this road falls to them. ESC has also passed on the obligation to some of the sub-tenants. ESC were legally obliged to repair the road and so they should be asked to do this. If Suffolk County Council was not prepared to repair the road, then ESC must repair it.

Some councillors agreed that the trust should not be paying for these repairs, although were sympathetic to the users of the road. If the trust agreed to make a contribution to the road repairs, it could then be asked to repair sewers, road drains, street lighting, etc that were in the area. It was questionable as to why Suffolk County Council (SCC) did not deem the road to be bad enough to fund the repairs itself.

It was pointed out that the trust needed to be realistic. SCC Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw was prepared to use all of her local budget to repair this road. ESC were planning to terminate the lease and hand these lands back to the trust. They would not be paying for the repairs to the road. Something needed to be done to make the road safe for users.

It was pointed out that the liability to repair the road was with ESC. If the trust repaired the road it would become liable.

Signed.....Chairman 2 June 2020

It was suggested that perhaps the district and county councillors should be putting more pressure on the two organisations to get this road repaired.

Councillor Stubbings suggested that the trust should write to ESC and explain that the road was in disrepair and that under the terms of the lease, ESC should repair the road. Councillor Harris seconded this proposal, a vote was taken and it was therefore

RESOLVED That the trust does not agree to Suffolk County Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw's request to match fund the repairs to Ken Markland Way (the road that leads to the May Centre and Sports pitches off Common Lane South

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

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

12. Any Other Business

There was one item of other business regarding two caravans at the former waste site which would need to be discussed under the confidential section of the meeting given that personal details may need to be discussed.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOLLOW

Signed.....Chairman 2 June 2020