

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TOWN HALL

Present

Councillors: Colin Hill (Chair), Barry Darch, Richard Stubbings, Nathalie Chidley, Jeff Harris, Stevie Bubb, Peter Shannon, Christine Wheeler, Joe Athorn, Chris Greenhill, Krista Booker, Sam Hunt, Tarek Lahin and Gillian Birrell.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)
Cllr Sarah Plummer

Members of public: 1

1. Apologies for Absence

- Received from: Daniel Smith and Philippa Drew.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

- None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (5th November 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Chair
- 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 5th November 2024.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Secretary reported that discussions with parking company were still ongoing about the administration of free parking for annual moorers in the Quay car park.

5. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (20th November 2024)

- Cllr Shannon noted that the draft minutes do not include reference to the agreement to the summer parkrun route. Cllr Stubbings noted that these could be amended at the next meeting of the committee.

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Stubbings
- Seconded by: Cllr Hunt
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024.
- To consider the following recommendations from this meeting:
 - i To accept the grounds maintenance contracts from ESS for the year 2025/26 for Beccles Quay and Beccles Common.
 - Cllr Stubbings proposed that these be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Hunt
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept the grounds maintenance contracts from ESS for the year 2025/26 for Beccles Quay and Beccles Common.
 - ii To agree a request from parkrun to move the existing gate on the Sailing Club Track
 - Cllr Stubbings proposed that this request be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Hunt
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree a request from parkrun to move the existing gate on the Sailing Club Track.
 - iii To agree in principle the route for junior parkrun at Beccles Common
 - Cllr Stubbings proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Hunt
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree in principle the route for junior parkrun at Beccles Common.
 - iv To accept the winter parkrun route at Beccles Quay
 - Cllr Stubbings proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Shannon
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept the winter parkrun route at Beccles Quay.
 - v To agree the amended replacement Golf signage for Beccles Common
 - Cllr Stubbings noted that the map circulated in the pack had been considered by the committee and that a revised map had been suggested, which had not yet been produced. He therefore suggested that this item be deferred and this was agreed.
 - vi To fell the oak trees on Beccles Common as recommended by the Ranger

- Cllr Stubbings noted that two trees are being planted elsewhere on the trust's estate for each tree that is removed.
- Cllr Wheeler criticised the previous removal of an oak tree.
- Cllr Stubbings noted that the tree already removed had been damaged. He noted that this proposal was about removing oak saplings, not mature trees.
- Cllr Chidley commented on the need to apply the Brennan Report advice to remove trees on the common that have encroached beyond the existing wood, to protect the acid grassland habitat.
- Cllr Stubbings proposed that the felling of the oak trees be agreed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Chidley
- Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To fell the oak trees on Beccles Common as recommended by the Ranger.
- vii To agree the draft agreement between the Trust and the Golf Club
- Cllr Stubbings proposed that this agreement be confirmed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Darch
- Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To confirm the draft agreement between the Trust and the Golf Club.

6. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Development Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee (11th November 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Birrell
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024.

7. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Finance & Governance Committee (25th November 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Wheeler
- Seconded by: Cllr Chidley
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024.
- To consider the following recommendations from this meeting:
- i To approve the draft trust budget for 2025-26.

- Cllr Wheeler noted that the RFO had discovered some discrepancies in the figures for expenditure at Quay which would result in the budget figures being incorrect by up to £10,000. Cllr Wheeler commented that these discrepancies should be considered by Finance & Governance Committee and a revised budget brought back to the January full trust meeting.
- This was agreed.
- ii To authorise the use of Norton Peskett to help with the eviction of four boats that are illegally moored between A146 bridge and Sailing Club.
- Motion to authorise the use of Norton Peskett proposed by Cllr Wheeler.
- Seconded by: Cllr Chidley
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To authorise the use of Norton Peskett to help with the eviction of four boats that are illegally moored between A146 bridge and Sailing Club.
- iii To amend the mooring Terms and Conditions to include a clause allowing us to sell an abandoned boat and retain any outstanding mooring fees and other charges from the proceeds of the sale.
- Motion to amend the mooring conditions proposed by Cllr Wheeler.
- Seconded by: Cllr Harris
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To amend the mooring Terms and Conditions to include a clause allowing us to sell an abandoned boat and retain any outstanding mooring fees and other charges from the proceeds of the sale.

8. **Receipt of Draft Minutes from Personnel Committee (13th November 2024)**

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Darch
- Seconded by: Cllr Chidley
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

9. **To consider the wording in the footer of the headed paper template for the trust**

- Cllr Stubbings suggested that the words “owns and” be removed.
- Cllr Darch disagreed, referring to the original Charter, which had made clear that, although the lands were given to the people of Beccles, that a corporate body was needed to carry out this function. Cllr Darch

commented that the Fenland Trust was the successor to this original corporate body.

- Cllr Wheeler therefore proposed that no changes were needed to the footer of the headed paper.
- Seconded by: Cllr Shannon
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED That no changes were needed to the footer of the headed paper.

10. To agree to temporarily remove bollards from the Common Lane entrance to the skatepark to allow access for the floodlight contractor

- Cllr Stubbings commented that he would support the proposal provided that the contractor ensured that the area was kept secure after the bollards were removed.
- Motion to agree to remove bollards proposed by: Cllr Shannon
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To agree to temporarily remove bollards from the Common Lane entrance to the skatepark to allow access for the floodlight contractor.

11. To receive a report on the parking projects for Common Lane and Alan Hutchinson Way and to consider recommendations from Secretary regarding this project

- Cllr Shannon gave some background on the delay in receiving planning advice from East Suffolk Council, which had delayed the project.
- Cllr Athorn requested that any consultation meeting be held in the evening and Secretary confirmed that this was what was being planned.
- Cllr Wheeler asked that the May Centre be included in any consultation process.
- Motion to accept the Secretary's recommendations proposed by: Cllr Shannon
- Seconded by: Cllr Athorn
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To accept the recommendations from the Secretary:
- Submit request for pre-planning advice from ESC regarding the works on the former orchard site, including ecologist advice on Biodiversity Net Gain implications for the site.
- Convene 'stakeholder' consultation meeting with sports clubs and scouts / guides in January 2025

- Ask Norton Peskett to draft licence for tennis club use of grassed area adjacent to their courts, with licence to be reviewed by Finance & Governance Committee in January
- Proceed with path / bridge / gate from Common Lane to entrance to Scout & Guide building at a cost of up to £5,000.

12. Responsible Financial Officer's Report and Payment Schedules for November 2024

- Motion to approve: Cllr Chidley
- Seconded by: Cllr Birrell
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** receive the RFO's report and to agree the payment schedules for November 2024.

13. Any Other Business

- There was none.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Scheduled for Tuesday 7th January 2025, following the Town Council meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

15. Approval of confidential minutes from Previous Meeting (5th November 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Cllr Stubbings
- Seconded by: Cllr Wheeler
- Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

16. Receipt of draft confidential minutes from Finance & Governance Committee (25th November 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Wheeler
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the draft confidential minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024.
- Councillors considered and agreed actions concerning three confidential recommendations from this meeting.

17. Receipt of draft confidential minutes from Personnel Committee (13th November 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Darch
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To receive the draft confidential minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8.45pm.

ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item	What?	By Whom?	By When?
5i	Accept the grounds maintenance contracts from ESS for the year 2025/26 for Beccles Quay and Beccles Common	Deputy Secretary	Asap
5ii	Inform parkrun of agreement to move the existing gate on the Sailing Club Track	Deputy Secretary	Asap
5iii	Inform parkrun of agreement of the route for junior parkrun at Beccles Common	Deputy Secretary	Asap
5iv	Inform parkrun of agreement of the winter parkrun route at Beccles Quay	Deputy Secretary	Asap
5vi	Fell the oak trees on Beccles Common	Ranger	Asap
5vii	Contact the Golf Club to get them to confirm draft agreement	Deputy Secretary	Asap
7ii	Arrange help from Norton Peskett to evict illegal moorers	Secretary	Asap
7iii	Amend the mooring Terms and Conditions to include a clause allowing us to sell an abandoned boat and retain any outstanding mooring fees and other charges from the proceeds of the sale	Secretary	Asap
10	Arrange removal of bollards from the Common Lane entrance to the skatepark to allow access for the floodlight contractor.	Deputy Secretary & Ranger	asap
11	Submit request for pre-planning advice from ESC regarding the works on the former orchard site, including ecologist advice on Biodiversity Net Gain implications for the site	Secretary	Asap

11	Convene 'stakeholder' consultation meeting with sports clubs and scouts / guides in January 2025	Secretary	Asap
11	Ask Norton Peskett to draft licence for tennis club use of grassed area adjacent to their courts, with licence to be reviewed by Finance & Governance Committee in January	Secretary	Asap
11	Proceed with path / bridge / gate from Common Lane to entrance to Scout & Guide building at a cost of up to £5,000	Secretary	Asap