

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 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, Daniel Smith, Chris Greenhill, Krista Booker and Philippa Drew.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)

Members of public: 0

1. Apologies for Absence

- Received from: Tarek Lahin and Gillian Birrell. Sam Hunt was not present.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

- None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (1st October 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Cllr Chidley
- 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 1st October 2024.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Secretary reported that East Suffolk Council had again declined to repair the track behind the sports pavilion.

5. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (16th October 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Chidley
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings

- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024.
- To consider the following recommendations from this meeting:
 - i To allow Cllr Chidley to plant a native hedge at Little Wembley.
 - Cllr Chidley explained the background and proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To allow Cllr Chidley to plant a native hedge at Little Wembley.
 - ii To agree the proposal for allotment rent increases and an adjustment of how costs are apportioned with BAGA
 - Cllr Chidley noted that BAGA have been consulted on the proposed changes and she proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree the proposal for allotment rent increases and an adjustment of how costs are apportioned with BAGA.
 - iii To remove an area of gorse at Beccles Common as requested by the Ranger
 - Cllr Chidley proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
 - Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To remove an area of gorse at Beccles Common.
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6. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Development Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee (14th October 2024)

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Smith
- Seconded by: Cllr Chidley
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Development, Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024.
 - i To agree a quote of £405 for revised 'Marsh Trail' leaflet.
 - Cllr Chidley explained the background and proposed that this be agreed.
 - Seconded by: Cllr Chidley

- Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree a quote of £405 for revised 'Marsh Trail' leaflet.
- ii To reduce the charge for commercial hire of Quay field to £300 from April 2025
- Cllr Chidley proposed that this be agreed.
- Cllr Smith proposed an amendment that the change be implemented immediately.
- Amendment was seconded by: Cllr Stubbings and councillors voted to accept the amendment.
- Cllr Smith seconded the amended proposal
- Councillors voted in favour of the amended proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To reduce the charge for commercial hire of Quay field to £300.

7. Receipt of Draft Minutes from Finance & Governance Committee (28th October 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 28th October 2024.
- To consider the following recommendation from this meeting:
- To give all annual moorers free parking at Quay car park.
- Motion to give all annual moorers free parking at Quay car park proposed by Cllr Wheeler.
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To give all annual moorers free parking at Quay car park.

8. To agree Christmas and New Year opening arrangements for Beccles Quay

- Secretary suggested that the recommendation in his report be changed so that the Harbour Master's office was also closed on 30th and 31st December.
- Cllr Booker proposed that the opening hours be agreed as per the Secretary's suggestion.
- Seconded by: Cllr Harris

- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree Christmas and New Year opening arrangements at Beccles Quay.

9. Responsible Financial Officer's Report and Payment Schedules for October 2024

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

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr Booker spoke to her paper on the potential siting of the pétanque pitch. She noted that the current site, on the south side of the quay near the riverwall, is often flooded. She reported that she had walked the area with Michelle Golding from Twinning Association to look at alternative locations. Cllr Harris asked about the cost of creating the pitch and Cllr Booker replied that the costs would be met by association.
- Cllr Booker proposed that the site on the north side of the quay, shown as Site A in her report, be agreed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Wheeler
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree Site A on the north side of the quay as location for pétanque pitch.
- Secretary circulated a short report on the skatepark floodlights. He noted that the planning permission for the floodlights will expire in January 2025 and he recommended councillors to give permission for the light poles to be erected before Christmas to prevent the permission from lapsing.
- Cllr Chidley proposed that the Secretary's recommendation be agreed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To allow the floodlight columns to be erected around the skate park before the end of 2024.
- Cllr Stubbings asked that the small patches of rust on the Avenue gates be painted and this was agreed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Scheduled for Tuesday 3rd December 2024, following the Town Council meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

12. Approval of confidential minutes from Previous Meeting (1st October 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Cllr Chidley
- 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 1st October 2024.

13. Receipt of draft confidential minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (16th October 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 Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024.
- Councillors considered and agreed an action concerning a confidential recommendation from this meeting.

14. Receipt of draft confidential minutes from Finance & Governance Committee (28th October 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 Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Monday 28th October 2024.
- Councillors considered and agreed an action concerning a confidential recommendation from this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8.37pm.

ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item	What?	By Whom?	By When?
5	Plant a native hedge at 'Little Wembley'	Cllr Chidley	Asap
5	Implement allotment rent increase and notify allotmenters of change	Secretary and Administration Officer	Asap
6	Amend hire charge for Quay field	Secretary	Asap
7	Implement free parking in Quay car park for annual moorers	Secretary	By 1 st April 2025
8	Implement Christmas and New Year closure at Quay	Deputy Secretary	Asap
10	Arrange for installation of skatepark light columns	Secretary	Before end of 2024