

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TOWN HALL

Present

Councillors: Barry Darch (Chair), Richard Stubbings, Jeff Harris, Stevie Bubb, Peter Shannon, Christine Wheeler, Chris Greenhill, Daniel Smith and Philippa Drew.

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (Secretary)
District Cllr Sarah Plummer
County Cllr Ash Lever

Members of public: 0

1. Apologies for Absence

- Received from: **Colin Hill, Krista Booker, Sam Hunt, Tarek Lahin, Nathalie Chidley, Joe Athorn and Gillian Birrell.**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

- None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (3rd December 2024)

- Chair noted an error in the minutes at Item 9, and he suggested that the words “and was therefore” should be removed from the following sentence: “Cllr Darch commented that the Fenland Trust was the successor to this original corporate body and was therefore”.
- Motion to approve, subject to the amendment above, proposed by Chair
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024, subject to an amendment at Item 9 to remove the words “and was therefore”.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- There were none.

5. **Receipt of Draft Minutes from Assets & Estates Committee (18th December 2024)**

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Stubbings
- Seconded by: Cllr Harris
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2024.
- To consider the following recommendation from this meeting:
- To accept the quote from ESS for maintenance of The Avenue.
- Cllr Stubbings proposed that this be agreed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Harris
- Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept the quote from ESS for maintenance of The Avenue.

6. **Receipt of Draft Minutes from Development Commerce & Strategic Planning Committee (9th December 2024)**

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Smith
- 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 9th December 2024.
- To consider the following recommendation from this meeting:
- To replace all signage at Quay with new BFCT logo and 'Beccles Quay' branding.
- Cllr Smith proposed that this be agreed.
- Seconded by: Cllr Stubbings
- Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To replace all signage at Quay with new BFCT logo and 'Beccles Quay' branding.

7. **Receipt of Draft Minutes from Finance & Governance Committee (11th December 2024)**

- Motion to receive minutes proposed by: Cllr Wheeler
- Seconded by: Cllr Darch
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024.

- To consider the following recommendations from this meeting:
- i To approve the revised draft trust budget for 2025-26.
- Cllr Wheeler explained the committee had considered the expenditure increases at Quay which RFO had identified. She reported that the committee had identified some savings to offset most of these increases, including reductions in budgets for benches and signage and for maintenance of The Avenue. She noted that the budget for benches should be adequate to provide the required benches for Marsh Trail and she asked Secretary to confirm this.
- Motion to authorise the revised budget proposed by Cllr Wheeler.
- Seconded by: Cllr Darch
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree the BFCT budget for 2025-26.
- ii To agree the text of the Financial Review statement for inclusion in the trust's accounts for 2023-24
- Motion to authorise the text of the statement proposed by Cllr Wheeler.
- Seconded by: Cllr Darch
- Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To agree the text of the Financial Review statement for inclusion in the trust's accounts for 2023-24.

8. Responsible Financial Officer's Report and Payment Schedules for December 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 December 2024.

9. Any Other Business

- There was none.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Scheduled for Tuesday 4th February 2025, following the Town Council meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

11. Approval of confidential minutes from Previous Meeting (3rd December 2024)

- Motion to approve proposed by Cllr Darch

- Seconded by: Cllr Smith
- Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7.40pm.

ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item	What?	By Whom?	By When?
3	Amend and publish revised minutes	Secretary	Asap
5	Implement change of contractor for maintenance of The Avenue	Deputy Secretary	Asap
6	Arrange design and purchase of replacement signage for QUAY	Secretary & Marketing and Events Officer	By next meeting
7i	Publish on website revised Trust budget for 2025-26	Secretary	Asap
7ii	Ensure Financial Review statement is included in finalised Trust accounts for 2023-24	Secretary and RFO	Asap