



*Preserving our Heritage. Protecting our Future.*

Town Hall,  
The Walk,  
Beccles,  
NR34 9AJ

Tel: 01502 712109

[admin@becclestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@becclestowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the meeting of Beccles Fenland Charity Trust held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Council Chamber at Town Hall**

**Present:** Barry Darch (Chair), Nathalie Chidley, Daniel Smith, Richard Stubbings, Christine Wheeler and Joe Athorn.

**In Attendance:** Paul Cunningham, Secretary

**Apologies:** Gillian Birrell, Krista Booker, Stephanie Bubb, Chris Greenhill, Jeff Harris and Colin Hill

**Absent:** Philippa Drew, Samuel Hunt, Tarek Lahin, Peter Shannon

**Members of public:** No members of the public.

### **1 - To receive apologies for absence**

Received from Colin Hill, Jeff Harris, Krista Booker, Gillian Birrell, Stevie Bubb and Chris Greenhill.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

### **2 - To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda**

There were none.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

### **3 - Draft minutes of the Assets and Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025**

**Cllr Stubbings proposed that** the draft minutes of the above meeting be received for information.

Seconded by: Cllr Chidley.

Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** To accept for information the draft minutes of the meeting of the Assets & Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

To consider the following recommendations from this meeting:

i To agree a contribution of £15-20,000 towards the grant application to ESC local CIL fund for the electrification project for the North side of the Quay, with a contingency of 10-20%.

Cllr Stubbings noted that he had worked with Colin Crisp to reduce the quote by reducing the number of electricity boxes from two to one. He also noted that the number of mooring posts has been reduced from 15 to 13. He suggested that the Trust fund the full cost of the electricity posts to boost the chances of the grant being approved. He also noted that two further quotes would be needed.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that the Trust agree to contribute £20,240 to the project, all of which would be funded by town council Neighbourhood CIL.  
This was seconded by Cllr Chidley.

Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** To submit a bid for a grant form East Suffolk Council's Local CIL Fund, with the Trust to contribute £20,240 to the project, all of which would be funded by town council's Neighbourhood CIL.

ii That the Assets Committee support the Development Committee in submitting a CIL application for the replacement lighting project on the south side of the Quay, with a contribution of £3,000 from the Town Council's own CIL fund.

Secretary reported that he had spoken to district councillor Sarah Plummer, who had suggested that the Trust seek the funding from district and county councillors' locality / enabling budgets rather than applying to the Local CIL Fund.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that the Trust seek the funding from district and county councillors' locality / enabling budgets rather than applying to the Local CIL Fund.  
This was seconded by Cllr Smith.

Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** To seek the funding for this project from district and county councillors' locality / enabling budgets rather than applying to the Local CIL Fund.

iii To install trail cameras at Beccles Common Play area and iv That trail cameras be installed on Beccles Common to monitor vehicular movement.

Cllr Stubbings noted that maintenance would come from Town Council budget, not

from the Trust.

Cllr Athorn suggesting publicity that the play equipment has been damaged and that we have installed cameras to increase security.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that two trail cameras are purchased, one for the common play area and onw for the common to monitor vehicular movements.  
Seconded by Cllr Darch.

Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** To purchase two trail cameras, one for the common play area and one for the common to monitor vehicular movements.

v To agree to provide a further four benches along the Marsh Trail, with funding to come from the bench budget.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that a further four benches along the Marsh Trail are purchased, with funding to come from the bench budget.  
Seconded by Cllr Darch.

Councillors voted in favour and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** To purchase a further four benches along the Marsh Trail, with funding to come from the bench budget.

| What?                                                                                                                   | By Whom?        | By When?   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Submit bid to Local CIL fund for electrification of North side of Quay                                                  | Paul Cunningham | 30/05/2025 |
| Liaise with district and county councillors to seek funding for replacing coloured lights on south side of Beccles Quay | Paul Cunningham | 16/06/2025 |
| Order two trail cameras for Beccles Common                                                                              | Candi Turner    | 16/06/2025 |
| Draft publicity about damage to play area and that we have bought cameras                                               | Paul Cunningham | 27/06/2025 |
| Order 4 further benches for Marsh Trail                                                                                 | Candi Turner    | 20/06/2025 |

#### 4 - Any other Fenland Trust business

Secretary noted that, because the agreed changes to the Trust's by-laws had not yet been confirmed by the Charity Commission, the meeting did not have sufficient

councillors present. He suggested that the decisions made should be confirmed at the next full Trust meeting on 3rd June (assuming that at least eight councillors will be present at that meeting) and this was agreed.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

## **5 - To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 3rd June 2025 after the town council meeting**

This was confirmed.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

## **6 - To consider confidential items**

Councillors noted that there were no members of the public present.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

## **7 - To receive update from Secretary on recruitment to Harbour Master vacancy**

Secretary gave a verbal update on the recruitment process.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |

## **8 - Any other confidential Fenland Trust business**

There was none.

| What?                               | By Whom? | By When? |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| There are no actions for this item. |          |          |