



PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee held over Zoom on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr S Griffiths (Chair of Committee), Cllr E Simmons (Vice-chair), Cllr L Mills, Cllr D Seabrook, Cllr G Hill, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr D Paul, Cllr L Symonds, Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Tony Allen (Town Clerk), Victoria Onis (Admin Officer).

In Attendance: Jan Knowlson re. Item LA448.

LA 439 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LA 440 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Ms Knowlson to speak on Item LA448.

LA 441 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr J Harris; technical problems connecting with the meeting.

LA 442 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interests.

LA 443 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2020

It was resolved to adopt the minutes as a true record.

LA 444 FINANCE UPDATES

The finance reports were noted.

LA 445 FLINT WAY PATH FUNDING

Following previous discussions by the Committee, it was noted that this funding would come from S.106 monies.

LA 446 BEES

The Parks Officer's report was noted and discussed.

It was noted that 2m high netting is recommended to make the bees take a higher flight path to the hive; Parks Officer to follow this up with the owner.

The Parks Officer reported that the owner had been asked to display a notice giving contact details in case of problems with the bees.

It was noted that the bees had swarmed this year and that there had been no more reported incidents.

LA 447 TREE WARDENS

The Parks Officer's report was noted and discussed.

Cllr Gallagher reported that residents in Telscombe had set up a Tree Wardens volunteer group, which has had meetings with James Newmarsh (ESCC), but its operations have been curtailed by the COVID-19 restrictions.

It was agreed to engage with this group once the circumstances allow.

LA 448 MANAGEMENT OF WILDFLOWER AREAS AT THE DELL

The Chairman introduced her report and noted that the four designated areas had been agreed by the Committee and ratified by Council and that the Committee now needs to consider how to manage these areas, up to and including the sowing of the seeds and then their ongoing maintenance.

It was resolved, by majority, that the 'yellow, blue & brown areas' should be left to self-seed and then cut/raked in the autumn, with any areas that are purely grass scarified if necessary. This to be followed by appropriate seeding for each of these areas, as per the Chairman's report.

For the 'orange area' there was an extensive discussion about the proposed use of the 'hot foam' method as a one-off means of removing the unwanted dominant plant species, to allow more successful seeding of this area with wildflowers.

Cllr Gallagher spoke about the importance of sensitively managing The Dell area, noting its proximity to SSSI designated areas and that the cliff top is part-owned by LDC.

Ms Knowlson reported on the use of the hot foam method and alternatives, noting that a management plan for the area will be forthcoming.

Concerns were also expressed about the costs of using the hot foam process and the many unknown factors about this relatively new process.

It was resolved to do nothing to the 'orange area' apart from hand cutting the barley grass before it seeds.

LA 449 TOILET OPENING

The Parks Officer's report was noted.

The Clerk reported on emerging Government relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and that the final risk assessment will be carried out on the 26th June 2020, with the aim of reopening the toilets from 29th June 2020.

LA 450 OUTDOOR ACTIVITY POLICY

The Parks Officer's report was noted and discussed.

This policy, adopted in September 2019, was discussed along with appropriate charging and recent requests for the use of outdoor space by regular hirers of The Hub during the COVID-19 restrictions.

It was resolved that existing regular hirers of The Hub will be allowed to use the outdoor space, without the need to sign an additional agreement and the need to pay any fees; subject to appropriate insurance and risk assessment being in place.

It was resolved to review the current policy.

LA 451 LAKE PARK POND REPORT

Cllr Seabrook's report was noted and discussed.

LA 452 HOWARD PARK WILDFLOWERS

Cllr Seabrook's report was noted and discussed.

Cllr Seabrook noted that the 'purple area' shown on the plan was a wildflower area in 2016, but that this has reduced significantly as the area has been left unmanaged and spoilt by rabbit burrowing and by human activity; it has not been mown for some time.

It was agreed to leave the area as it is and inspect it again in the autumn.

LA 453 PROJECT UPDATES

The Parks Officer's report was noted and discussed.

The Parks Officer highlighted the following:-

- The new sliding door for the Gateway Café will be fitted in early July 2020.
- A response is still awaited from the supplier of the new kitchen sink unit for the Gateway Café.
- A company will be on-site on the 26th June 2020 to look at the replacement of the sewage pumps and to provide a quote.

- Gateway Café CCTV inspection report. Rodents have eaten through a lot of the cabling; three cameras need replacing along with extensive rewiring. A quote has been received and other quotes will be sought. The working cameras can now be viewed remotely. A full report will be provided for the next meeting of the Committee.
- Dog proof fencing around the play areas is being repaired.

The Clerk noted that children's play areas will be opened in-line with Government guidelines; it is difficult to see how social distancing will be maintained.

LA 454 WORKS UPDATES

The Parks Officer's report was noted.

Caretaking staff are being used to supplement the Grounds Team.

LA 455 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING AS THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 2020

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee could be held earlier if required.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:40.

Unadopted

