



PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee held over Zoom on Tuesday 12th May 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 Cllr Duhigg.
One member of the public.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 LA 428 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

You will have received a paper from the CIL working Party which is to be added to the updates to note. We can add a fuller report to the agenda of the next meeting.

The Civic and marketing Officer has asked me to thank all the Councillors and Officers who contributed to make the VE Day a success.

We have had some more problems with motorbikes in Centenary Park. Steve O'Connell from the Safer Roads Partnership has stated "The issue in the Park with the teenagers on motorcycles is in hand and we are sure at this point who they are." I also have had a phone call from PCSO Chris Marchant following up a complaint from myself. Chris is self-isolating but has been given the job of phoning the 40 people who have complained about this issue.

Some very good news came in this afternoon from Aimee Harman who created the original mosaic around the flower planter on the Dell roundabout. She had planned to refurbish it but had a change of circumstances. Her circumstances have changed again, and she hopes to continue with the project which has a new theme. Each panel will be a different colour of the rainbow and the words around it will be - Bee Love, Bee Strong, Bee Happy, Bee Calm. This is at no cost to the Council.

Aimee is a very talented artist who is known for her refurbishment of the tiled floors in the toilets of the Orient Express.

2 LA 429 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident asked if the disabled swing at The Dell is still functioning and will it be moved. The Parks Officer confirmed that it is working and has had a yearly inspection. The Parks Officer confirmed there are funds available from LDC to do works at the Dell, but this is an ongoing situation and doubts the swing will be moved.

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee – 12th May 2020

3 LA 430 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr Cheta – other commitments

4 LA 431 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllr Sharkey declared an interest in Item 8, as being a resident in the vicinity of Cornwall Ave.

5 LA 432 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th March 2020

Cllr Seabrook proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Amendments to Cllr Seabrook's proposal were received from Cllr Gallagher in order to record matters of accuracy as follows:-

- LA407 - Addition – 'An Engineer's survey to be carried out, up to a cost of up to £2K, funded from CIL monies.'
- LA408 – Addition – 'Contractor to be Sussex Driveways up to a cost of up to £3K to be funded from CIL/S.106 monies.'
- LA410 – Correction – Second sentence to read 'It was noted that S.106 monies (using S106 from the Centenary Park £20K per year allocated fund) or CIL monies can be used to offset the costs of this work. Estimated at a cost of £9950.'
- LA412 – Addition – 'To be paid from 2020/2021 playground equipment budget Estimated cost £1156.'
- LA413 – Correction – Second paragraph to read 'It was resolved to replace the sink and units at the Gateway Café like-for-like and to consult with the lease holder with regards payment by them for any extra attachments/fittings if required (PTC to pay up to £120 towards this).'
- LA413 – Addition – 'Selected company is Catercraft Supplies Ltd at a cost of £2181 plus mixer taps; total cost up to £2500. To be funded from the 2020/21 Gateway Café budget.'

An amendment to Cllr Seabrook's proposal was received from Cllr Mills in order to record a matter of accuracy as follows:-

- LA420 – Addition – 'Cllr Mills noted that, at the Committee's meeting on the 23rd January 2020, it has already been resolved not to have an additional banner board at The Dell and to look for other suitable locations.'

It was resolved to adopt the minutes, as amended, as a true record

Proposed Cllr Seabrook

Seconded Cllr Sharkey

All in Favour

6 LA 433 PLANTING TREES IN VERGES

The Committee discussed a Residents letter requesting tree planting in Peacehaven. Cllr Sharkey spoke of how this idea is welcomed and updated the Committee on Telscombe Town Councils recent tree planting exercise, unfortunately only around 6 trees were planted due to the problems that were encountered with underground services. LDC came to do the survey of the grass verges and found underground cables from Virgin and BT cables, preventing planting.

Cllr Seabrook, also supported the idea and suggested other areas for tree planting are looked at. The verges are unsuitable due to services underneath and also concerns over the ongoing maintenance; these trees will grow and the Town Council will have to fund the costs of cutting them back every year to avoid hazards to traffic and also the trees may become a concern for Residents with leaves on the pavement and blocking out the sunlight. Other areas to consider for planting are the ends of the avenues next to the South Coast Road; here will be no impact on the traffic. Centenary Park is also an option but as we have experienced with tree watering in the Orchard, water supply is a problem. Trees need large amounts of water, not just a watering can, so this will be a challenge if trees were to be planted. Cllr Seabrook also asked if there will be enough volunteers to set up a group and would the resident suggesting the idea, be prepared to organise a tree warden group just as there are in Newhaven & Seaford. This initiative needs to include some of the residents in order to help maintain and water the trees if planted.

Cllr Gallagher informed the Committee that the advantage of a community led group will mean that they are able to apply for grants and funding and free trees, which the Council cannot do.

The Parks Officer shared his experiences and informed the Committee that a tree planting initiative was looked at 10/15yrs ago and again the issue of underground services on verges, including the ends of road where Cllr Seabrook has suggested are also a problem, there is concrete underneath the soil.

Cllr Duhigg also queried which type of trees would we plant bearing in mind we are on the coast with a lot of wind and rain. It was suggested that the types of trees would be decided by the professionals at ESCC, otherwise the trees will die, which is what has happened at Howard Park.

Cllr Mills suggested that grass is better for environment than trees and converts more CO2 than trees will.

Cllr Gallagher recommended that we write to the resident and confirm we would like to help with this request of more trees. An invitation could be made to the resident to attend the next Tree Warden meeting when the current Covid situation has passed; if they can come along to the meeting, we can then take this forward.

Cllr Seabrook proposed that we put the resident in touch with the Telscombe Tree Wardens and at the same time we could find out if the Tree Wardens would be interested in expanding their area of operation, so we cover both Towns with one group. Newhaven and Seaford are also very established we could look for guidance from these Towns.

Proposed Cllr Seabrook

Seconder Cllr Gallagher

All in Favour

7 LA 434 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN / OPEN SPACES

Cllr Gallagher is the Chair of the Steering Group Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Gallagher would like volunteers to help with research for a Green Spaces management Plan.

For the Town to gain protection for its green spaces, we need to put together a very strong case. Public involvement is needed to determine:-

*What spaces are available?

*What people want from green spaces?

*Mapping out where things will go and how will be paid for and maintained and enhanced in future years.

Cllr Duhigg suggested that once the current COVID situation is over, it may be of benefit to have an open air exhibition, at Centenary Park for example, to involve the residents of Peacehaven in determining the future, of our green spaces.

Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Paul, Cllr Seabrook, Cllr Hill, Cllr Mills volunteered to support this initiative.

Cllr Gallagher thanked the Committee for endorsing the project within the auspices of the NDP Steering Group.

8 LA 435 ALLOTMENT DDA

Peacehaven Town Council received an enquiry regarding whether we had any DDA compliant allotment plots in Peacehaven. The Parks Officer updated the Committee, noting that we currently do not have any allotments suitable for those with disabilities.

The Town Clerk has investigated this, and concluded PTC would only have to have DDA access if creating new allotments. DDA adaptations to the existing allotments and the approaches to them would be impractical cost wise.

Purchasing more land at the site in Cornwall Avenue would come at a significant cost and currently the rental paid for an allotment just about covers the cost of the water used.

Cllr Seabrook reported that he has been in contact with the Doctors Surgery and had several meetings at the Community Garden. He has been arranging some gardening sessions for some of the patients, but sadly only a couple of people have attended so far. Cllr Seabrook suggested that the Community Garden is the way forward for looking after those with disabilities by working to make this more accessible for all, to make long term use of it. We have recently had a new gate installed to make it accessible for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

The Green Havens LDC lottery bid, which has been put forward, has a request for some money for raised beds for wheelchair users and a DDA accessible composting toilet, which will cost about £5k. This approach was supported by the Committee members.

9 LA 436 BROWN TAIL MOTH CATERPILLAR

The Parks Officer noted that there had been no further complaints on this matter.

Two options for treatment of the moths were discussed: -

Option 1 in the winter the tents where the moths hibernate could be removed and disposed of and we will need to investigate current disposal regulations.

Option 2 is in that in Spring 2021 we spray them preferably with a biological spray.

It was proposed to cut back affected shrubs in the winter, when the shrubs are full up and the moths are dormant, this will be actioned by the Grounds Team and disposed of following current disposal regulations, unless a better option becomes available before that time.

Proposed Cllr Sharkey

Seconder Cllr Hill

All in favour.

10 LA 437 WORKS UPDATE

Parks Officer gave an update on the current staffing situation, two members of staff need to stay at home and isolate and the two remaining members of staff have been carrying out all essential works when they can do so safely, this includes emptying the bins around the parks and maintaining amenities as well as possible.

It has also been decided to postpone employing the new Groundsman, until the lockdown has eased further and we can resume near normal working.

The Parks Officer confirmed his teams PPE was suitable and available and advised that as they are working outside, the team are very unlikely to come into close proximity to other people. The Grounds Team currently have not got masks but the Parks Officer will be making a Full Risk assessment with the Town Clerk before the staff come back to work. They currently have gloves, hand wash and are keeping to themselves.

11 LA 438 PROJECT UPDATE

The report was noted. Top dressing and aeration of the relevant grass surfaces in the Centenary Park has been completed. The company providing the new sink unit may not be operational at present.

The Parks Officer added that It may be necessary to make adjustments in the future, to the play area if the Government decides to reopen play areas, for example the basket swing is designed for more than one person which will create a problem with social distancing. This will have to all be investigated when the time comes.

It was noted that The Hub is being fully decorated, with new blinds provided.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING AS THE 23rd JUNE 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

