

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 7:00pm

Present

Councillors: Geoff Patmore (Chair); Carol Albury, Ann Bridges, Gina Scotting, Lee Cowen (from Minute 20.2) and Lionel Parsons.

Ex-officio: Cllrs Gloria Eveleigh and Mick Clark.

Public and Press: One member of the public from Minute 20.1.

Officer: Helen Plant, Clerk

15. Apologies

Apologies were received, and with the reason outlined, were accepted from Cllr Liz Haywood.

16. Declaration of Substitute Members

None.

17. Declarations of Interest

None.

18. Public Forum/Questions

None.

19. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12 July 2017

Resolved – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017 be approved.

20. Clerks Report(s):-

20.1 Monks Rec Improvement Project

It was agreed to defer this item until the arrival of Cllr Cowen.

20.2 Christmas Festival

It was confirmed that preparations for the Christmas Festival on 16 December 2017 were underway, including the request for the road closure had been approved and some entertainment had been booked, but additional artists would be sought. Efforts would be made to site the entertainment as close to North Road as possible so that it became more integrated within the village.

It was noted that in previous years, stall holders had been requested to pay a deposit of £25 which was reimbursed after the event providing the stall was occupied by the hirer on the day of the event. However, it was suggested that stall holders paid the same fee as the Village Market of £15, with only genuine charity stalls being granted a free of charge pitch. Any stall income received would be used to offset against the cost of the event.

Resolved – That a charge of £15 be introduced for Christmas Festival stall holders, unless the stall is for a charity.

20.1 Monks Rec Improvement Project

i. Design Brief Tender

Pursuant to Minute 14.3/Jul/17, it was confirmed that the invitation to tender for the Design Brief was duly submitted to six companies, with the deadline being 25 August. Only one company had positively responded and the reasons for the others not replying were given.

Whilst the response might have been considered disappointing, the company that had presented a proposal, BDP, was considered very capable and met all the qualifying criteria. Furthermore, the proposed delivery cost of £9,750 was less than anticipated.

It was also reported that Mr Pullen, a local resident, had offered the Council a number of small oak trees to plant once they had grown a bit more, but larger pots were required until that time. The Committee agreed that the trees should be thankfully received and incorporated in the landscaping of Monks Rec with BDP taking this into account within the Design Scheme.

The Clerk advised that a competition to win £40,000 worth of play equipment had been entered and if successful, would be a huge bonus to the improvement scheme.

Resolved – (a) That BDP be approved as the Council’s delivery partner for the Monks Rec Improvement Project Design Scheme.

(b) That Mr Pullen be thanked for the offer of the trees.

ii. Zip Wire

Members were reminded that at the last Committee meeting, it was agreed that a zip-wire should be purchased and installed to the north-east perimeter of Monks Rec using the Bags of Help grant (Minute 14.3(b)/Jul/17 refers). However, at the Monks Rec Improvement Project Working Group meeting on 25 July, the group believed it should not be installed until the spate of vandalism at the Rec had been tackled. The Committee was therefore requested to determine whether the zip wire should be installed now or deferred and to decide whether the item should be constructed in wood or metal.

Resolved – That a metal framed zip wire be installed to the north-east perimeter of Monks Rec using the Bags of Help grant as soon as possible.

20.3 The Globe School – Beach Green Suggestions

Pursuant to Minute 14.11(a)ii/Jul/17, it was confirmed that investigations into the costs and feasibility of a paddling pool being installed on Beach Green had been made. Site visits were made to Brooklands and Hove Lagoon paddling pools. Work requirements included annual pre-season deep cleaning and chlorination works, with similar end of year procedures, daily water sample tests, the cost of chemicals, plant parts etc. There would also be the need of additional member of staff to carry out the daily water sample tests and to keep the area generally clean and tidy. The facility was therefore confirmed as being costly and time-consuming. Furthermore, the starting cost to install a paddling pool was anticipated to be £50,000.

In respect of the Fairground operator who had offered to site his Playframe on Area B during the school holidays, it was confirmed that the equipment had been in operation for 8-days and the Council would receive a flat fee of £160. Whilst the number of days in use was considered disappointing, albeit it was acknowledged use was weather dependant, the operator had expressed an interest to operate such a facility again in 2018.

It was confirmed that the other suggestions were still being investigated.

Resolved – (a) That the suggestion of a paddling pool being installed on Beach Green be abandoned.

(b) That the operation of fairground attractions be considered at the next Committee meeting.

20.4 Earth Mounds on Beach Green

As reported to the Council meeting in July, the landscaped areas around the skatepark had now become compacted, would be topped up with soil from the retained mounds and grass seeded. Whilst the use of artificial grass was suggested for the high use areas, it was considered that this would not be robust enough and that rubber matting that grass could grow through would be a better alternative.

A decision was sought as to what to do with the remaining soil.

Resolved – That the remaining soil left over from topping up the skatepark be used to top up the surrounding skatepark and play area to the eastern track, including grass seeding and the area in front of The Perch be turned into a wild flower area.

20.5 Widewater – Naming of the Lagoon Island

It was reported that a request had been received from the Shoreham District Ornithological Society to have the island in the Lagoon formally registered as ‘Allen Island’ in memory of Stanley and Peggy Allen, who were previously active members of SDOS and whose family had since donated funds to the work of World of Widewater. The request was also supported by WoW.

It was confirmed that the request would not change the ownership of the island in any way through Land Registry, but simply added the name ‘Allen Island’ to OS Maps.

Resolved – That approval be given to the naming of the Widewater Lagoon island to ‘Allen Island’.

20.6 2018/19 Budgetary Considerations

Members were asked to consider whether there were any potential schemes that would require scoping out for inclusion in the Council’s overall 2018/19 budgetary considerations in addition to those already identified.

Resolved – That the following costs of identified projects and equipment be included in the 2018/19 budgetary consideration:-

- 1. Garden Competition** - £100 to cover general expenses and a request that the Jubilee Hall hiring fee is waived for the Garden Competition presentation event;
- 2. Beach Green Play Area replacement fencing** - quotes are currently being sought;
- 3. Grounds maintenance equipment, including new heavy duty self-propelled hand lawn mower, football pitch line marker, generator and demolition-hammer** - £2,500;
- 4. Widewater** – new item – to cover incidental costs specific to Widewater - £500;
- 5. Monks Rec Improvement Project** - £20,000.

20.7 Beach Green Hire Request

To confirm the Clerk’s decision for Area B being hired out by Small Car Big City as an exclusive car park on 4 September between 12-2pm at short notice. The private tour company were taking their visitors to The Perch for lunch and payment of £250 was received.

Resolved – That the Committee ratifies the hire of Beach Green Area B to Small Car Big City on 4 September 2017.

20.8 Request to install defibrillators at Beach Green and Widewater Car Parks

A request had been received from this Council's Car Park Licensee, District Enforcement, to fit two defibrillators, one at Beach Green car park and one at Widewater car park as part of the company's ongoing site improvements. The upkeep and monitoring of the defibrillators would be through District Enforcement's sponsorship of the equipment. The Committee greatly appreciated this request and wholly supported it as the defibrillators would serve to increase the safety and provide reassurance to residents and visitors enjoying Beach Green and Widewater.

Resolved – That approval be given to District Enforcement installing defibrillators at Beach Green and Widewater car parks.

21.0 Other Matters:-

21.1 Lancing Air Raid Shelters

Cllr Patmore advised that costs to carry out a full condition survey and repairs to make the structure safe to open to the public were in hand since the agreement by Council that surplus General Reserves could be used towards the project.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

21.2 Beach Green Promenade Lighting Working Group

It was confirmed that the production of a feasibility and early design document would be initiated following the agreement by Council to fund this part of the project from surplus General Reserves.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed Chairman
Date