

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7:00pm

Present

Councillors: Geoff Patmore (Chair); Lee Cowen (from Minute 34.4), Gina Scotting and Lionel Parsons.

Ex-officio: Cllr Mick Clark (from Minute 34.2).

Public and Press: None.

Officer: Helen Plant, Clerk

29. Apologies

Apologies had been received, and with the reasons outlined, were accepted from Cllrs Carol Albury, Ann Bridges, Gloria Eveleigh, Liz Haywood.

30. Declaration of Substitute Members

None.

31. Declarations of Interest

None.

32. Public Forum/Questions

None.

33. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 15 November 2017

Resolved – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017 be approved.

34. Clerks Reports:-

34.1 Monks Rec Improvement Project

It was confirmed that the Improvement Project Working Group had been presented with the End Strategy Report by BDP on 4 January, which was based on the initial Landscape Design Strategy, but concluded with an illustrative masterplan of the preferred design option. It was noted that the masterplan was for illustration purposes at this stage as elements such as the new building could change shape or orientation to suit budgets and local needs. A phased approach to the scheme had been laid out, with the initial cost being for site surveys to ensure the elements of the plan can be sited where illustrated. The final scheme could include local character features, such as flint walls or reference to the carriage works in some way, funds permitting.

The next step for the project was for a public consultation to be carried out to ensure the community were behind the proposed scheme and which might also highlight any flaws or further improvements. The group agreed that there was a need to advertise the consultation as widely as possible and to all age groups. The next meeting on 25 January would finalise the consultation survey and how and where it should take place. It was agreed that the consultation should run until the end of April.

Resolved – That the illustrative masterplan be subjected to public consultation.

34.2 Christmas Festival

It was reported that as part of the event evaluation, a meeting had been held with Adur District Council's Markets Officer and the Clerk, which had established a few improvements for future events. It was also noted that 'operational challenges' had resulted in additional costs to ADC and the Parish Council were charged for the first time for the full use of the required market stalls. It was likely that this charge would be incurred in future years.

Whilst Members considered that the 2017 Christmas Festival had been a success, some felt that it would benefit the Parish Council by not having the event on the same day as the Village Market. This would give the market retailers a second opportunity to have their usual market day stall, plus another on the festival date, thereby increasing their income and the Parish Council's from extra stalls. It was envisaged that the revised event would take place just on North Road, between the entrance of Queensway south to Penstone Park, resulting in a more centralised location and better community atmosphere.

Concerns were expressed that this suggestion would create logistical difficulties and lead to additional costs to the Parish Council, but considered worthy of investigation.

Resolved – That the costs and feasibility of the Parish Council holding a stand-alone Christmas Festival event on North Road be investigated.

34.3 Beach Green Anti-Tank Block

An A1 size information panel for the Beach Green anti-tank block had been designed and the final draft had been previously circulated to Members. It was confirmed that the wording had been approved by local historian Mr Philip Fry.

For the best display, it was suggested that the anti-tank block be moved from its current location behind SETyres and sited next to the Parish Council's noticeboard adjacent to the entrance gates, as that location was more open and generally had a higher footfall, and to protect the noticeboard from being collided with again.

Resolved – (a) That the anti-tank block information panel design, as submitted, be approved.

(b) That the anti-tank block be relocated beside the Council's Beach Green noticeboard.

34.4 Royal Wedding Celebratory Event

In anticipation of the wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on 19 May 2018, Cllr Bridges had suggested a community event be organised on Beach Green to celebrate the occasion.

Resolved – That Cllr Bridges leads on any Royal Wedding celebratory event, co-ordinating with the office with details being reported back to this Committee.

34.5 World of Widewater

i. 21st Birthday Celebration

It was reported that WoW turned 21 years old this year and the group were planning an associated event, including a guest speaker, activities and entertainment on 21 April 2018. This would give the group and the Parish Council the opportunity to raise awareness of the lagoon's importance and to celebrate the installation of the information panels that WoW received grant funding for.

Resolved – That £100 from the Events budget be allocated towards World of Widewater's 21st Birthday Celebration.

ii. Replacement Information Booth

It was reported that WoW were hoping to replace the current information booth with a visually pleasing visitor/learning/information hub. The group had already gathered views from approximately 100 people who had an interest in the area back in 2015.

A working party consisting of WoW Committee members had been formed and a Design Brief Worksheet had been produced. The next stage would be to gather expressions of interests from Designers, but before that could be progressed, the support in principle from Lancing Parish Council for this project was duly sought.

Resolved – That the Committee supports World of Widewater's plan to replace the information booth with a visitor learning hub, in principle.

34.6 Memorial Seat Terms & Conditions

It was noted that the Parish Council had, for many years, operated a successful memorial seat scheme. However, as there were no associated terms and conditions, a relevant document had been produced using a model.

Resolved – That the Memorial Seat Terms and Conditions, as submitted, be approved.

34.7 The Globe School – Beach Green Suggestions

Pursuant to Committee Minute 14.11/Jul/17, it was confirmed that associated costs and feasibility of having a crazy golf course on Beach Green had been investigated.

The costs to install a permanent course started from £25,000. Simple portable outdoor units started from £2,000. Whilst the portable units might be considered achievable, further complications to consider included, the best location for the course, how the clubs and balls could be hired out, what to charge, who would oversee the management of it and a suitable storage location for the units.

Resolved – That the installation of a crazy golf course on Beach Green be considered unfeasible.

34.8 2017 Beach Green Fireworks Event

A letter of thanks had been received from St Barnabas House via Showtime Amusements, the organiser of the Beach Green fireworks event, as £893.83 had been raised from the collection at the event.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

34.9 Beach Green Hire requests

i. Thai Festival – Saturday 30 June & Sunday 1 July 2018

A request had been received for the above to take place on Area A of Beach Green. Event elements consisted of authentic Thai cuisine, Thai dancing, costumes and entertainment.

Whilst Members were keen for the event to take place, reassurances were sought that all elements would be suitable for families.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green for a ‘family friendly’ Thai Festival be approved.

ii. ‘Off-grid’ Camp Out – 28-29 April 2018

A request had been received from VW Heritage (classic car spares supplier) working on behalf of the charity Shelterbox to put on a charity ‘off-grid’ camp out on Area A of Beach Green. Shelterbox provided shelters and emergency provisions for those caught up in disaster areas and the event would allow sponsored individuals to live off grid for a weekend to experience the situation for themselves.

Members expressed concerns as to whether the ground would be suitable to pitch tents and not knowing how many tents there might be. Clarification of the leaving time on the Sunday morning was requested.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green by VW Heritage for a Shelterbox campaign be agreed in principle, subject to clarification of the issues raised by Members.

34.10 World War 1 Centenary Commemorations 2018

It was reported that an invitation had been received from The Royal British Legion to support their ‘Silent Soldier’ initiative to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 as a tribute to the sacrifice all men and women gave across the nation during that War.

The silhouettes could be sponsored at a cost of £250 each and it was suggested that the Council sponsored one soldier, to be funded from the 2018/19 Events budget to be located by the War Memorial on South Street, and that other sponsors be sought through a local advertising campaign for more to be located within Lancing as coordinated by this Council.

Resolved – (a) That the Council sponsors a Royal British Legion ‘Silent Soldier’ with the cost being covered from the 2018/19 Events budget.

(b) That the Council coordinates a local advertising campaign for other soldiers to be sponsored by local businesses/organisations.

(c) That the Council endeavours to work with the local branch of The Royal British Legion with any other planned commemoration events.

34.11 Installation of a Drinking Fountain on Beach Green

It was highlighted that there had been a lot of news articles recently as to how the unacceptable amount of plastic waste could be tackled. A suggestion was therefore made for a drinking fountain to be installed on Beach Green to allow people to refill their existing drinks bottles.

Resolved – That investigations be made into the costs and feasibility of a drinking fountain being installed at Beach Green.

34.12 Request to install Information Panel at Beach Green by Marine Conservation Society

It was reported that the Marine Conservation Society had requested permission to install an A1 size sign containing information about local marine ecology, seabed protection and sustainable fishing to raise awareness of the Marine Conservation Zones on Beach Green seafront near to the telescope.

Resolved – That permission be granted for the Marine Conservation Society to install an A1 sized information panel on the seafront adjacent to Beach Green.

34.13 Request for a Funfair at Monks Recreation Ground

It was reported that a request had been received from Showtime Amusements, organiser of the Beach Green fireworks event, to hold a family fun fair on Monks Rec on 11/12/13 May 2018. Set up and opening times were outlined.

Members were agreeable to the request, subject to local residents being well notified of the event and it not impacting on any football fixtures. The Committee also agreed that the organiser should pay the Council a percentage of the profits for the hire of the ground and this income be specifically earmarked towards the Monk Rec Improvement project.

Resolved – (a) That permission be granted for a funfair to take place on Monks Rec on 11/12/13 May (plus set up dates) subject to the organiser paying the Council 10% of the profits for the hire of the ground.

(b) That it be recommended to Council that the income from this event be specifically earmarked toward the Monks Rec Improvement Project fund.

(c) That local residents be notified well in advance of the event by means of a letter drop.

35.0 Other Matters:-

35.1 Lancing Air Raid Shelters

Following the approval of the structural survey costs to be carried out (Council Minute 68.5/Jan/18 refers), it was confirmed that this would be arranged as soon as possible.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

35.2 Beach Green Promenade Lighting Working Group

No update had been provided by Cllr Butcher.

35.3 Litter Campaign

Pursuant to Committee Minute 28.3/Nov/17, it was confirmed that the Working Group had met twice. The agreed goal of the campaign was *'To stop people littering and not picking up after their dogs.'* and associated motto following a Facebook request for residents' suggestions had been agreed as *'Clear it up, pick it up or PAY UP!'* as this encompassed both elements of the campaign. An emoji-poo costume would be purchased, and a litter critter costume created to act as the campaign mascots.

A launch event on Beach Green on 25 February 2018 between 10am and 12pm was considered appropriate, as that date tied in with Keep Lancing Lovely's litter pick and linked in with the Great British Spring Clean campaign. The group were meeting again on 18 January to finalise the poster details for advertising purposes.

Resolved – That the Committee endorses the work of the Litter Campaign Working Group.