

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 2 May 2018 at 7:00pm.

Present

Chair: Geoff Patmore.

Councillors: Lee Cowen (Minutes 43 to 48.7), Lionel Parsons, and Gina Scotting.

Ex-Officio: Cllr Gloria Eveleigh and Mick Clark.

Public and Press: None.

Officer: Helen Plant, Clerk.

43. **Apologies**

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

44. **Declaration of Substitute Members**

None.

45. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

46. **Public Forum/Questions**

None.

47. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 14 March 2018**

Resolved – That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

48. **Clerk's Report:-**

48.1 **Monks Rec Improvement Project**

i. **Project Update**

It was noted that the Working Group had not met since their last meeting on 27 February due to the ongoing consultation. The consultation ended on 30 April 2018 and had had a good response and the results were in the process of being analysed. It was also noted that the necessary topographical and archaeological surveys had been commissioned and were currently being put together by the relevant companies. The group would meet again once the outcome of the consultation was known and the land surveys had been received to consider the results and discuss the next stages of the project.

Members were advised that a member of the Working Group had suggested the arrangement of a get-together with local businesses to potentially secure additional funding through sponsorship/funding donations. However, it was considered too early in the project for this to be done now but could be considered at a later stage.

Resolved – That a get-together be arranged with local businesses to potentially secure additional funding through sponsorship/funding donations at an appropriate stage of the project.

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ii. Climbing Wall

It was reported that Lancing Parish Youth Council had been successful in their grant application to West Sussex County Council and had received £1,000 towards the cost and installation of a junior climbing wall at Monks Rec and had been paid to the Parish Council.

Members were asked whether the climbing wall should be installed once the final play area design had been completed, which would not be for some time yet, or install it now, and in which case a decision was needed to be taken as to where to site the item.

Resolved – That a steel junior climbing wall be installed now, located south of and in a similar design to the zip wire.

48.2 Christmas Festival

It was confirmed that the arrangements for the Christmas Festival were ongoing. However, further entertainment ideas were needed. The suggestions were to hire the balloon man, DJ compare and Elvis at the least. It was also suggested that advice be sought from Fun4kids as that organisation knew of other entertainment sources.

Resolved – That further entertainment for the Christmas Festival be booked.

48.3 World of Widewater - 21st Birthday Celebration of Local Nature Reserve

The details of World of Widewater's successful event to celebrate the lagoon being designated a Local Nature Reserve for 21 years were outlined, including the official unveiling of the 5 new nature information panels that had been funded through grant aid. The event helped raise awareness of the importance of the lagoon and the work of World of Widewater.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48.4 Beach Green Hire requests

i. Annual Filipino Festival 2018

The use of Area A for the Annual Filipino Festival 2018, on Saturday 4 August and Sunday 5 August. Apart from 2016, the event had been held in Lancing for at least 6 years.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green for the Annual Filipino Festival be approved.

ii. Charles Chipperfield Circus

The use of Area A for a circus between 8-12 August and 15-19 August. This circus had visited Lancing in previous years.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green for Charles Chipperfield Circus be approved.

iii. West Sussex County Council Family Fun Day

WSCC Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service had requested permission to use Area A on Friday 1 June to hold a family fun day. The activities were outlined. The day would be primarily to promote the IPEH Service around Worthing and Adur.

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Due to the nature of the event corresponding to the Parish Council’s mission, vision and objectives and the fact that the Parish Council worked with WSCC on other projects, it was recommended that the hire fee be waived for this event.

Resolved – That West Sussex County Council’s IPEH Service Family Fun Day be approved and the hire fee waived.

iv. Community Bootcamp – every Saturday between May to October at 9am for 1 hour

A request had been received for the use of a grassed area on Beach Green to hold fitness classes. It was noted that the fully qualified instructor’s public liability insurance was £5m cover. These classes would not interfere with the Park Run which also took place on a Saturday morning.

Resolved – That the Community Bootcamp be authorised to take place on Beach Green and no fee be charged for the use of the green, due to the nature of the event correlating with Parish Council objectives, but Public Liability Insurance must be increased to £10m.

v. Weekly Beach Cinema

It was reported that The Perch on Lancing Beach was currently looking into the possibility of having an inflatable beach cinema screen for a weekly cinema evening throughout the summer. However, it was stressed that a number of issues needed to be addressed before approval could be considered.

The deeds to the beach, owned by this Council, contained a number of covenants preventing entertainment from taking place on the beach. Advice was currently being sought from SALC’s solicitor regarding the implications of this covenant and how it could be overcome.

Furthermore, details of the size or how the inflatable screen would be secured had not been provided, which needed to be addressed for health and safety reasons. Members also requested that The Perch refrained from serving refreshments in glass receptacles and used recyclable materials instead.

Resolved – That the idea of having an inflatable beach cinema screen for a weekly cinema evening throughout the summer be agreed in principle, subject to the implications of the covenant being resolved and details of how the inflatable screen will be secured and a plan of the proposed cinema being provided.

48.5 Lancing Air Raid Shelter - Survey Update and future of project

The anticipated structural survey was carried out on 6 March and the written structural appraisal report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the surveyor stressed the results of the appraisal do not constitute the results of a full structural survey. However, the information provided was sufficient for Members to consider the future of the project.

Members recognised that unless further historic evidence could be found of the air raid shelter in use, i.e. to substantiate it dating back to World War II, it was of limited interest. The considerable costs to make the structure safe and appropriate for public access were

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also recognised. The installation of an information panel and improving the landscaping at the site was considered an alternative option.

Resolved – That Councillors make investigations into the previous use of the shelter to validate its history to enable the project to move forward.

48.6 Litter Campaign Update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 41.1/Mar/18, the campaign was duly launched on Sunday 25 March and the working group subsequently met on 12 April to evaluate it. The event was considered to have gone well and it was felt that people were made aware that the Parish Council was trying to do something about the issue of littering/dog fouling. A few learning points were noted.

As cigarette butts were considered a blight to focus on, especially around the betting shops, the next stage of the campaign was to target specific areas of the village to build up a campaign profile by highlighting how many cigarette butts were collected. Whilst the first target date was initially set for 12 May, this was in the process of being changed as that date clashed with the 'No Ikea' march which some group members were involved with.

The group acknowledged that the campaign should end at some point, but could be re-introduced at another time, so the effectiveness of the scheduled target day and any future target dates would be considered at the next meeting.

In respect of whether the Parish Council had the power to put its own Public Space Protection Orders in place – it was confirmed that legislation dictated only the District Council had that power and who could only carry out any associated enforcement. However, alternative options were being sought with ADC as to how the Parish Council could influence a firmer regime of enforcement.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48.7 Promenade Lighting update

Whilst only two meetings of the Working Group had taken place, it was noted that the work carried out in respect of the promenade lighting project was quite thorough, including a proposed map of the scheme broken down into three phases (Beach Green, Shopsdam, Widewater), police advice and views from residents sought.

The article regarding the project published in an edition of the Parish Council's newsletter attracted thirteen responses – 3 for, 10 against (6 of those were against the Widewater phase because of the impact it would have on the local nature reserve). The Police were also contacted for advice on their views on both the lighting of the pathway and the skate park with regards to the impact it might have on crime and policing.

It was acknowledged at the start of the project that to just light the Beach Green section would be a costly exercise. Taking that into account, along with the police advice (especially in respect of the skatepark) and the initial resident responses, an alternative option was considered.

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That option could be to light from the new path at the southwest corner of the car park, along the back of the car wash, then south towards The Perch, to illuminate the skatepark as well, requiring only a few lighting units. It was also perceived that The Perch might be prepared to contribute towards the costs as this option would also benefit that business.

The Committee agreed to take the alternative option and accepted that a working group was no longer considered necessary as the project could be progressed by the office and overseen by this Committee.

Resolved – (a) That the Promenade Lighting Working Group be disbanded.

(b) That the alternative option to light part of the promenade now be progressed, i.e. to light from the new path at the southwest corner of the car park, along the back of the car wash, south towards The Perch, to illuminate the skatepark as well with an appropriate turn-off time being taken into consideration.

48.8 Notification of Rampion Wind Farm & Southern Water Works

The Environment Agency had advised that Rampion were planning to lay another wind farm cable west of the one installed in September 2016 and an old disused Southern Water outfall about 1km west of Lancing bathing water was going to be dismantled. Both works were planned for around June.

The EA considered the risk to bathing water quality minimal, so no warning signs or abnormal situations were being proposed but the EA would react if any problems arose during the works.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48.9 Marine Conservation Society Information Panel Update

Pursuant to Committee minute 34.12/Jan/18, the MCS had confirmed that their funding application to Rampion, to cover the costs of the proposed information panel to be installed off Beach Green, had been successful and hoped to have the panel in place later this year.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48.10 Keep Lancing Safe initiative - Beach Green Activity Day

It was reported that during a recent meeting of the Parish Council led multi-agency group Keep Lancing Safe, further ways of engaging with young people was considered. This stemmed from an Albion in the Community representative attending the meeting who outlined ways this could be achieved.

Since then, Cllr Eveleigh had established that there were a number of local groups who were willing to help organise a Beach Green Activity Day during the summer school holidays, including Albion in the Community, Electric Storm Youth, Lancing Football Club, Disability Football, Fun4Kids and The Perch.

Whilst a date had not yet been set for the Activity Day, Cllr Eveleigh was seeking the support of this Committee for the day to go ahead and to approve £250 from the Events budget towards any costs involved.

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Resolved – That the Committee supports Cllr Eveleigh to arrange the Beach Green Activity Day initiative and approves £250 from the Events budgets towards any costs involved.

48.11 Skatepark - Skate Jam event

Pursuant to Council minute 81.6/Mar/18, it was confirmed that planning was well underway for a Skate Jam event to take place at the skatepark scheduled for 18 August between 2-4pm. The office was working closely with Electric Storm Youth, along with other interested parties to pull the event together.

A request was made for a contribution of £150 from the Events budget towards any costs the event might incur.

Resolved – That £150 be approved from the Events budget towards the costs of the Skate Jam event.

48.12 Crowshaw Play area – request to renew

Whilst the revamping of Monks recreation ground was currently one of the Council's main focuses of attention, it was reported that an offer to help renew Crowshaw's play area had been received.

Crowshaw recreation ground lies within the boundaries of the Parish of Sompting. At a recent meeting of Sompting Big Local, the Committee agreed to ringfence £10,000 towards the costs to renew Crowshaw play area as Sompting residents had identified this area as one of their local needs. Furthermore, Lancing United Football Club, who rent all but the play area of Crowshaw, were prepared to apply for further funding so the project could be completed in one go.

Resolved – (a) That this Committee agrees to work with Sompting Big Local and Lancing United Football Club towards the completion of a new play area for Crowshaw recreation ground; and

(b) That it be recommended to full Council, that £5,000 from the Renewing Play Area Equipment Earmarked Reserves be put towards the project.

48.13 Beach Green Access Track – need to repair

It had come to light that part of the Parish Council owned access track between SETyres and the car wash that led up to the coastal shared path was in dire need of repair (the specific area ran from the highway footpath to the bollard). This was also a recognised Public Right of Way and as such, the Council should maintain it to a suitable standard under its duty of care to the public.

Whilst the costs of this work had not been considered during the 2018/19 budgetary process, the end of year accounts indicated that the costs, quotes of which had been received in the sum of £2,000, could be covered by General Reserves.

Resolved – That it be recommended to full Council that £2,000 from General Reserves, i.e. in addition to the previously agreed 2018/19 projects, be used to cover the costs of repairing part of the Beach Green access track.

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48.14 Garden Competition update

Members were advised that to date, no entries for the Garden Competition had been received. The event would be advertised as widely as possible until the closing date of 1 June when the Working Group would then meet to discuss the future of the competition.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

49. Other matters:-

49.1 Highways Grass Verges

Encouraging residents to take pride in the grass verge outside of their own home

Cllr Parsons outlined the details of his proposal, which involved committed residents taking responsibility of the grass verge areas outside their homes to keep them well maintained and tidy. Whilst it was acknowledged that the overall responsibility of those areas was West Sussex County Council, due to budgetary constraints works were not carried out as frequently as preferred. WSCC had provided advice on how residents, as volunteers, could carry out this work themselves, but would require them to sign up to an 'official' scheme so that they were covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

Members considered the proposal a good idea and recognised that some residents were already doing this maintenance. However, concerns were expressed in respect of the public liability insurance element, whether this would deter residents and why WSCC public liability insurance couldn't be used instead of the Parish Council's.

Resolved – That the proposal be agreed in principle, subject to clarification in respect of the public liability insurance matter being sought.

49.2 Antisocial Parking – request for support on proposals to eradicate

Cllr Patmore requested support and approval from this Committee to progress with an initiative to eradicate the problem of antisocial parking on grass verges and pavements. This practice left grass verges in a chewed up muddy mess and vehicles parked antisocially on pavements obstructed the way for pushchair/wheelchair users. Advice and support on the matter was being given by West Sussex County Council Highway's department and the Police.

It was confirmed that Sompting Parish Council had the same problem and Cllr Patmore and Eveleigh had met with Sompting Cllrs Baxter and Glynn-Davis to devise a joint campaign to raise awareness of the problem and for specific issues to be highlighted to the Police for relevant action to be taken.

Resolved – That the antisocial parking campaign be supported by this Committee and Cllrs Patmore and Eveleigh be allowed to champion the issue.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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