

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 7:00pm.

Present

Chair: Geoff Patmore.

Councillors: Ann Bridges, Lee Cowen (from Minute 15.5), Danny Jackson, Lionel Parsons and Gina Scotting.

Ex-Officio: Cllr Gloria Eveleigh.

Public and Press: One.

Officer: Helen Plant, Clerk.

10. Apologies

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

11. Declaration of Substitute Members

None.

12. Declarations of Interest

None.

13. Public Forum/Questions

None.

14. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 4 July 2018

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

15. Clerk's Report:-

15.1 Monks Rec Improvement Project

i. Project Update

This item was deferred until later in the meeting as Cllr Cowen was anticipated to be late.

ii. Climbing Wall Update

Whilst the climbing wall hadn't been received in sufficient time to have it installed ready for the summer holidays, it was confirmed that it was now installed.

Members expressed their thanks to Lancing Parish Youth Council in respect of this project.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

15.2 Christmas Festival

It was confirmed that enough entertainers had been booked for the event duration and Members were asked if any other attractions needed to be sourced.

The event advertising would commence shortly.

Resolved – That the funfair, photobooth, Santa's Elves and Christmas Window Competition also be part of the Christmas Festival.

15.3 Recreation Ground Hire requests

i. Beach Green

A request had been made to hire Area C on Tuesday 11 September between 5.30pm-6.30pm, at a pro-rata price of £75, by a company called Bard Ltd T/A Scripteasy to hold a private work wellbeing event.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green Area C to Bard Ltd T/A Scripteasy be approved.

ii. Monks Recreation Ground

A request had been received from Ace Football Academy to hold a football tournament for u7/u8/u9/u10 age categories, including a bouncy castle, burger van and a few other stalls on Saturday 13 July 2019 for the Academy's annual football tournament event.

Members' views were requested as to whether a charge should be made for this event.

Resolved – That the hire of Monks Rec to Ace Football Academy for a hire fee of £125 be approved.

15.4 Lancing Air Raid Shelter

Pursuant to Minute 8.5/Jul/18, it was confirmed that a 'Request for Information' sign had been purchased and installed, at a cost of £80, to appeal to the community for any memories of the Beach Green air raid shelter being used to substantiate it dating back to World War II and to build up further historic evidence of the shelter.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

15.5 Beach Green Lighting update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 8.7/Jul/18, one of the companies that had provided the initial costings had subsequently drawn up a detailed design scheme and quotation. The cost to supply and install 6 lamp units to the positions requested was £16,000.

The lamp units would be mounted 5m above ground level, switched on at dusk via a photocell and would automatically switch off at a nominated time, via a switching unit mounted in a feeder pillar located at the western end of the new path from the car park. The quoted price was based on using a spur supply from an existing lighting column on Brighton Road adjacent to the mini roundabout and the company was currently in contact with West Sussex County Council's contractor, SSE, to agree such a connection. However, if that was not possible then a price from UK Power Networks for a new supply would need to be sought and would result in a recalculation of the sum quoted. The energy supply would be an unmetered charge with an agreed supplier of the Council's choice. The company had calculated the estimated annual energy usage as being 204 kWh per annum, which would equate to no more than £100 of electricity costs per year. The columns in the proposal were a mid-hinged model, to make maintenance easier, with a hot dip galvanised finish and the lamp heads being a flat headed 12-led unit in grey.

It was confirmed that The Perch remained willing to contribute a small amount to the project.

Resolved – (a) That the detailed design scheme be amended to include two additional lamp units to take the scheme to the main central path.

(b) That invitations for quotations be issued (in accordance with Financial Regulations) for a 6 and 8 lamp unit schemes.

15.6 Keep Lancing Safe initiative - Beach Green Activity Day

It was confirmed that the Activity Day held on 3 August 2018 was a great success, and thanks went to Albion in the Community, Lancing Football Club, Disability Football, Fun4Kids, Lancing Kitesurfing Club and the Kiosk who all worked towards the organisation of the day.

Resolved – (a) That the Beach Green Activity Day to become an annual event, with a budget of £350 for the 2019 event.

(b) That Cllr Eveleigh organises the 2019 Beach Green Activity Day.

15.7 Skatepark

i. Skate Jam event

The Skatejam held on 18 August 2018 was a great success and local companies, Chimp Shack in Littlehampton, The Base Skatepark in Bognor Regis and Ocean Sports Board Riders in Hove were generous in providing prizes. Thanks also went to Electric Storm Youth who sourced the sponsors and for their overall assistance with the event.

A suggestion was made during the event that this may become an annual event. Members' views are requested on this and whether to allocate any sum of money from the Events budget.

Furthermore, Electric Storm Youth had also asked permission to organise a 'Christmas Santa' Skatejam in December.

Resolved – (a) That the summer Skatejam becomes an annual event, with a budget of £300 for the 2019 event.

(b) That Electric Storm Youth be granted permission to organise a 'Christmas Santa' Skatejam in December 2018.

ii. Proposed Skatepark Improvements

The Council office had been made aware of issues regarding the areas of the skatepark beyond the concrete. The grass had failed to grow due to high usage, although the installation of rubber matting on the embankment areas had helped this situation.

Users of the skatepark had asked for extensions of the concrete to the top sections and investigations had been made into the costs of such works. As the company who installed the skatepark was no longer in business, four local civil engineering companies were contacted, but only one was prepared to provide a quote, and two skatepark companies were contacted - one declined as their work book was full until the end of 2019, but one had quoted. The two quotes were as follows:-

1. Civil Engineering company - £7,000
2. Skatepark company - £9,000

Members were reminded that in accordance with Financial Regulations, the Council was not obliged to accept the lowest quote and with that in mind, it was recommended that the quote from the skatepark company be accepted to carry out the necessary works, as it was considered that that company was more aware of the skatepark users' requirements.

Furthermore, if the Committee agreed for this work to go ahead, a recommendation will need to be submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the cost of this work to be paid from General Reserves, as there is no budget allocation.

Resolved – That it be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the costs of additional works to the skatepark, in the sum of £9,000 be paid from General Reserves.

15.9 Croshaw Play Area Update

It was confirmed that Lancing United Football Club were still in the process of applying for grant aid to gain further funding towards the revamping of Croshaw Recreation ground's play area to add to the £15,000 of match funding provided by this Council and Sompting Big Local.

Discussion ensued in respect of the historic anomaly of Croshaw Rec being in the Parish of Sompting, yet it was under the ownership of Lancing Parish Council. It was known that Sompting Parish Council did not own any recreation grounds and the question of whether they would like to arise with the profits of any sale going towards the Monks Rec Improvement Project. It was acknowledged that as the ground was for recreation use only, and not for property development, the land would not have a high value. However, this would not be known unless the proposal was agreed and progressed.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted.
(b) That it be recommended to Council that consideration is given to sell Croshaw Recreation Ground to Sompting Parish Council.

15.10 Widewater Car Park – request for night-time closure

Pursuant to Committee minute 8.15/Jul/18, it was confirmed that the advice of the Police had been sought as to the best way to curb antisocial driving at the Widewater (west) car park.

Environmental Protection had not received any complaints about this issue but the Police received 6 reports between January to 31 May 2018. No reports were received since the beginning of June, when the good weather started, which indicated the car park being used by others for legitimate reasons and thereby reducing antisocial behaviour aspects.

It had also been confirmed that the installation of speed humps/rumble strips could create further antisocial driving problems.

The Police emphasised that any antisocial activity witnessed taking place at Widewater car park should be reported to them.

Furthermore, recent conversations with other local residents whose properties backed onto the lagoon confirmed that the issue is only occasional.

Resolved – That no further action be taken on the matter.

15.11 Beach Green Car Parking issues

Subsequent to the popularity of Beach Green, especially when the weather had been as good as it had been this year and coincided with events such as the Filipino Festival, parking issues had arisen, and a couple of Members had asked for this issue to be discussed at this meeting.

Members were provided with background information to the running of the car park, which included whether to re-mark the car park with a slightly different lay out and that the Council's car park License granted the Licensee the exclusive right to operate, manage and administer the Council's car parks, including Beach Green overflow car park, subject to the performance of the Licensee.

It was suggested that the existing car park be extended by tarmac an area of the overflow car park, but this was not considered a good idea as the problem only occurred during a short period of the year, would probably not be supported by the general public and would be an expensive operation.

Resolved – (a) That a letter be sent to the Council's car park Licensee stating that the management of Beach Green car park during peak periods needs to be better regulated, by employing more staff to oversee better parking arrangements, especially in respect of the overflow car park.

(b) That the costs to have yellow criss-cross lines to deter drivers from parking in the 'keep clear' area be investigated.

15.12 2019/20 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 2019/20 budgetary considerations.

Resolved – (a) That it be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the costs of the following identified projects be included in the 2019/20 budgetary consideration:-

1. **Events** – Increase from £2,550 to £3,000 to cover general increase in event costs and number of events held – **increase of £450;**
2. **Noticeboards** – Increase from £1,000 to £2,500 to cover the costs of new Millennium Handshake, Beach Green Wildlife and Boat Winch history Information panels – **increase of £1,500.**
3. **Beach Green Lawns maintenance** – Increase from £500 to £1,500 to cover the costs of topping the green to re-cover the anti-tank blocks – **increase of £1,000.**

(b) That Cllr Patmore investigates the local fishing history and associated use of boat winches along the seafront at Lancing.

15.13 Beach Green Drinking Fountain

Pursuant to Committee Minute 34.11/Jan/18, it was confirmed that a grant application to the Drinking Fountain Association had been successful and £2,000 had been received to install a drinking fountain at Beach Green.

A picture of the preferred design was circulated, which included a drinking fountain, a lower fountain for dogs and a separate bottle filler. It would be sited adjacent to the existing water tap on the sea front.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

15.1 Monks Rec Improvement Project

i. Project Update

It was confirmed that the funding application submitted to Rampion for £50,000 had been granted, but the application to Sports England had been rejected. However, this was only due to the reason for application (site clearance works) - a Sports England officer had contacted to suggest reapplying for the new pavilion instead.

The Clerk/Assistant Clerk had met with Sussex County Football Association to discuss Football Association Funding and it was suggested for this application to be completed jointly with Lancing Football Club once the Club had gained community status, anticipated to be in the next few months.

The meeting with an officer from the Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed that this project didn't fit HLF criteria anymore, but it was hoped the imminent meeting with the officer from the Big Lottery would prove to be more positive.

Whilst it was anticipated that the last meeting of the Working Group on 2 August would consider the draft developed design brief, unfortunately the volunteer's competing workloads have prevented the production of this to date. However, the document was completed last week, the Working Group had scrutinised it and the final draft had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Resolved – That the Developed Design Brief be approved and submitted to tender.

16. Other Matters:-

16.1 Highways Grass Verges Update - Encouraging residents to take pride in the grass verge outside of their own home

Cllr Parsons advised that he had carried out a survey of all the residents in his street and had received a positive response in respect of them keeping their grass verges neat and tidy. Unfortunately, the project was on hold at the moment as the West Sussex County Council officer he was working with on the project was currently on sick leave.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

16.2 Antisocial Parking Update

Cllr Patmore advised that another meeting was due to take place with Sompting Parish Cllr Glynn-Davis to progress a joint campaign to raise awareness of the problem.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.