

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 7:00pm.

Present

Chair: Geoff Patmore.

Councillors: Ann Bridges, Lee Cowen, Danny Jackson, Lionel Parsons and Gina Scotting.

Ex-Officio: Cllrs Gloria Eveleigh & Mick Clark.

Public: Two.

Officer: Helen Plant, Clerk.

31. Apologies

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

32. Declaration of Substitute Members

None.

33. Declarations of Interest

None.

34. Public Forum/Questions

None.

35. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 January 2019

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

36. Clerk's Report

Note - At this point, it was agreed to bring forward item 36.2vi to allow a member of the public to contribute to the matter.

36.2vi. Beach Green Premises Licence – Request to extend Licence area

A request had been received from The Perch for the Parish Council to extend its existing Beach Green Premises License to include the beach area. This would remove the need for The Perch having to apply for Temporary Event Notices to put on its outdoor cinema events, especially as more than ten events were being planned, and that business had offered to pay the cost of the new Premises License.

Mr Alex Hole, Manager of The Perch, was present at the meeting and provided Members with the plans for this year's outdoor cinema events.

Resolved – That the Beach Green Premises Licence be renewed to include the beach area with the cost of the new licence being covered by The Perch.

36.1 Monks Rec Matters

i. Improvement Project Update

The Working Group met on 12 January 2019 to work with BDP on pinning down the final look and feel of the building. Following on from the discussion at the previous meeting, the final shape and layout of the building was presented as rectangular, as this was generally

cheaper to construct, and all circulation space had been removed. The sports changing facility space remains compliant with Sports England's requirements.

It was confirmed that BDP and the Clerk had met with an Adur District Council Planning Officer earlier in the day who had no concerns with the proposed plans as long as it all complied with the usual planning regulations.

The roofline was of a wooden construction and the design had taken Lancing's aviation connection in consideration, which the group liked, and it was confirmed that the Planning Officer had welcomed the inclusion of a 'Changing Places' facility.

The proposed materials put forward for the external walls were steel or different versions of concrete, but both were robust and easy to maintain with the interior walls lined out with cost effective plywood panels or sterling boards which could be lacquered for a natural finish or coloured with a durable paint. While the use of glass had been minimised to the changing room areas (but still allowing an amount of natural light in), the café section had much larger panes. Different shutter options were suggested, but the cost difference between bespoke and conventional systems was highlighted. The floors could remain as concrete, sealed with a coat of resin or laid with vinyl. Internal partition walls would be standard insulated stud walling in a durable paint finish.

An overhanging roofline provided an undercover seating area adjacent to the café which could be made into internal space in the future should the need arise.

Attention was drawn to the layout of the activity concepts. The main play area space had been strategically laid out for the flow between the different age ranges and strived to be all inclusive. The proposed bespoke play equipment had been themed around Lancing's aviation history. The group were cautious of this and recognised that there were other themes that could be used, but it was felt that the public should decide.

It was questioned whether there was a need for a trim trail as well as outdoor gym equipment, and it was agreed that the trim trail could be installed at a later date if funds allowed. The southern community garden area had been reconfigured to allow for the retention of the depot and garage in their existing place.

BDP had visited the site during the day and as it was known it had been raining over the weekend, the field wasn't considered to be as waterlogged as anticipated. It was therefore suggested that soil samples be taken before any unnecessary drainage works were agreed.

The phases of the scheme had been reworked but with the different elements taken into account; BDP considered it a challenge for the project to be broken up into separate stages. However, Members recognised that it would be more of a challenge if it wasn't phased due to the financial constraints of the project.

Subsequent to the meeting, a survey for play area theme suggestions had been publicised via Facebook, Website and the village market. Three suggestions were popular based on Lancing's history; smuggling, market garden and carriage works/trains, but the carriage works/trains theme was the most popular.

It was confirmed that ADC had advised that it did not have the capacity to act as this Council's Project Manager for the Monks Rec Improvement Project overall scheme so

alternative options were being explored. However, ADC were assisting with the production of the necessary NEC3 contract between this Council and BDP.

The costs of engaging a professional Bid Writer and whether there were Council members who had the expertise and time to assist the office in the completion of grant applications had been investigated. In general, bid writers charged 5% from the amount of the grant applied for and there was one member who had the expertise and time to assist the office in the completion of significant grant applications. However, after a vigorous debate in respect of whether to engage with a bid writer or not, the vote was in favour to.

The planting of trees at appropriate areas around the site was still anticipated and would be carried out once the most appropriate species had been identified and purchased and following the demolition of the toilet block.

Resolved – (a) That the Monks Rec building be constructed in the following materials: Roof – wood, External walls – pre-cast concrete, Internal walls – plywood panels, Partition walls – standard stud walls, Conventional shutter system.
(b) That the play area theme be based around Lancing’s carriage works/trains history.
(c) That a Bid Writer be engaged with for the completion of significant grant applications.

ii. Monks Rec Public Toilets

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.2/Jan/19, it was confirmed that the Deed of Surrender in respect of the lease of the Monks Rec toilet block with Adur District Council had been signed off and the block was due to be demolished at the beginning of April 2019.

Recommendation – That the information be noted.

36.2 Beach Green and Beach matters

i. Prosecco, Gin & Dance Event update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.4iii/Jan/19, it was reported that the above event scheduled for 25 May 2019 by South East Live had since been cancelled as another venue had been chosen instead.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

ii. Craft Makers & Food Market 2019 update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.4vii/Jan/19, it was confirmed that Adur Markets would not be collaborating with the above event on Beach Green, albeit the two markets would go ahead on the same weekend – 17/18 August 2019.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

iii. Hire Request for a Fun Fair update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.4ix/Jan/19, it was reported that William Cole & Son Amusements’ fun fair would not be operating between 9 – 18 August 2019 due to Coles Fun Fair being on site as part of Beach Green’s regular attractions and the number of attractions being increased by that operator for the Craft Makers & Food Market 2019 event.

Resolved – That Mr Cole be encouraged to operate a fun fair on an alternative date or location, such as Monks Recreation Ground.

iv. Hire request for Annual Filipino Festival 2019

The use of Area A for the Annual Filipino Festival 2019, on 3 and 4 August 2019 had been requested. It was noted that apart from 2016, the event had been held in Lancing for at least 7 years.

Resolved – That the hire of Beach Green Area A for the Annual Filipino Festival on 3 and 4 August 2019 be approved.

v. Request to use Lancing beach by Surf Solace (sea-based activities)

A request had been received for the use of the beach by Surf Solace to run a pilot scheme in April/May 2019.

Surf Solace was a new organisation that provided sea-based activities to improve young people's mental health and wellbeing in the local communities of Adur and Worthing and acted as a resource for young people living in the local area by providing sea-based physical and educational activities. Clients would be referred to the project initially through Sir Robert Woodward Academy.

Resolved – Given the nature of the event and that one of the Council's objectives is to improve the quality of life and healthy living of the local community, the use of Lancing beach by Surf Solace be approved and that no hire fee be imposed.

vi. Beach Green Premises Licence – Request to extend Licence area

Considered earlier in the meeting.

vii. Beach Green Lighting update

It was reported that obtaining a quote for the supply and installation of 6/8 units from SSE had proved difficult and that option would no longer be pursued. It had been hoped that it would have provided the most convenient electricity supply for the new lighting units, so the alternative option of a new connection through UK Power Networks was now being progressed. However, Members considered that West Sussex County Council should assist.

It was also confirmed that the consultation on the scheme had been publicised with 24 comments being received from the Facebook post. Those were split between 14 for and 10 against the scheme, albeit some of those against were considered spurious. As there was a majority for the scheme, the project would continue to be progressed.

As some comments had been passed in respect of lighting the shared path from the Bandstand to Widewater to aid cyclists, the ability of illuminating the path using 'glow in the dark' surfacing was shown to Members.

Resolved – (a) That pressure be put on West Sussex County Council to help progress the Beach Green lighting scheme with SSE, with County Cllr Bridges adding to that pressure. (b) That West Sussex County Council be encouraged to install 'glow in the dark' surfacing to the shared path along Beach Green to Widewater.

viii. Beach Green Activity Day

Cllr Eveleigh confirmed that the arrangements for the 2019 Beach Green Activity Day were in progress, with organisations including Albion in the Community, Lancing Football Club, Disability Football, Fun4Kids, Lancing Kitesurfing Club and the Kiosk taking part.

However, it was apparent that the amount of £350 previously allocated to the event (Committee Minute 15.6/Sep/18 refers) might not be sufficient and an increase to £500 was requested.

Resolved – That £500 from the 2019/20 Events budget be approved towards the costs of the Beach Green Activity Day.

ix. Beach Green Car Park Line Markings

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.10/Jan/19, it was confirmed that the re-marking of the central bay area at Beach Green car park in a single arrowhead design had been done and paid for wholly by District Enforcement Ltd. This design had increased the number of bays by 25.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

36.3 Croshaw Play Area Renewal Update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.7/Jan/19, it was confirmed that a funding request had been made to Sompting Parish Council for a contribution towards the renewal of Croshaw Recreation Ground's play area equipment. The response received was as follows:-

"This was considered at the Full Council meeting on 13 February 2019 where unfortunately, Members decided they were unable to support any contribution for this proposal on this occasion."

Members considered this an extremely disappointing response, especially when specific points were taken into consideration, including the fact that the site laid within the parish of Sompting and SPC's mission statement was "To help foster a Sompting community which gives people a reason to be proud and engaged with the area we all live in" - it was Sompting residents who were calling for this project and would ultimately be to their benefit so they could be proud of their area, and SPC's Internal Auditor had advised that SPC should not be accumulating the amount of general reserves it currently held.

It was suggested that this Committee recommended to full Council that a further amount of £5,000 from the Renewing Play Area Equipment budget be earmarked towards the project. Whilst this was a contentious suggestion given the facts previously outlined, it was agreed through the Chair's casting vote.

It was also reported that another meeting with Sompting Big Local had taken place to establish whether an increase to their initial offer of £10,000 could be made. This matter would be considered at SBL's next meeting.

Despite the fact there would be a lesser amount than anticipated for the project, and that a full replacement was not now achievable, it would still be possible for a number of new items of equipment to be purchased to replace the most dilapidated items, replace existing safety surfacing and replace the unwelcoming fencing.

Resolved – (a) That Cllr Eveleigh, as Chair of this Council, discusses Sompting Parish Council's decision to not contribute to the Croshaw play area renewal project with the Chair of that Council at their next Chair's meeting.

(b) That it be recommended to full Council that a further amount of £5,000 from the Renewing Play Area Equipment budget be earmarked towards the Croshaw Play Area Renewal project.

36.4 Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean Event 31 March 2019

Pursuant to Committee Minute 29.12/Jan/19, the Parish Council, in conjunction with Keep Lancing Lovely and its scheduled litter pick, would be hosting the above event on Beach Green and included the attendance of West Sussex County Council's recycling team.

To add to the fun of the event, it was suggested that freebies be given out, like the water bottles were at last year's event. A quote had been received for a fold up bottle to printed with the Parish Council's logo and campaign motto 'Clear it up – Pick it up – Or Pay Up!'. An example of the product was shown at the meeting. However, the choice of plastic bottles was considered counterproductive in reducing the amount of plastic waste and that aluminium bottles should be bought instead.

It was also acknowledged that the event needed to be greatly advertised.

Resolved – That £300 from the 2018/19 Events budget be approved towards the costs of insignia aluminium water bottles and incidental expenses.

36.5 Widewater Kiosk Improvements

It was confirmed that improvements to the seating area at Widewater kiosk would be undertaken prior to the start of the main opening season. The existing rotten trellis fencing would be removed and replaced by gabion seating (as at the Beach Green kiosk), as requested by this Council's kiosk licensee and who was contributing towards the project.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

36.6 Drinking Fountains Update

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had been awarded £1,000 from a successful Tesco's Bags of Help grant towards the costs of a drinking fountain/bottle filling station to be installed at Widewater, in addition to the one due to be installed at Beach Green. However, as this amount was not enough to purchase a new unit, a further application had been made to the Drinking Fountain Association to cover the shortfall.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

36.7 Lancing Volunteers Get-together

Pursuant to Council Minute 83.4/Jan/19, Cllr Pope was currently making investigations as to whether such an event was of interest to local volunteer organisations. Once an appetite had been established, Cllr Pope and the Clerk would get together to compose an event action plan.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

36.8 Skatepark Improvements update

It was confirmed that the extension works were on track to be carried out in April.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

36.9 Proposal for a Monks Rec Car Boot Sale

It was reported that an idea recently suggested through Lancing Regeneration's Facebook page showed there appeared to be community support for a car boot sale to take place on Monks Rec as a way of increasing footfall in the village centre. However, it had subsequently come to light that that support had waned and would therefore not achieve the specific aim of increasing footfall into the village centre so Members felt unable to support the suggestion.

Resolved – That for a car boot sale to take place on Monks Rec not be supported.

36.10 2019 Garden Competition

The 2019 Garden Competition was due to take place on 15 June. It was confirmed that Cllr Monk had secured sponsorship from Gardner & Scardifield (£65.00 plus trophy & engraving) and Jacobs Steel (£200.00 plus shield & engraving) and that Jean Griffin from BBC Radio Sussex "Dig It" had again consented to be guest judge.

Garden Competition sponsors' signage would be in situ at the Parish Hall on the Awards Presentation Day.

Members support was sought in respect of encouraging entrants and by providing cakes and help in general on the Awards Presentation Day.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.