



HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure and Environment Committee January 11th at HTC taken by Lisa Simmonds

Attendees: - Cllrs Joyce Moseley (Chair), Rachel Kellett, Keith Greenberg, Rosemary Lewis,
Co-optees: - Gini Williams, Ben Walters, Lisa Simmonds

1 Apologies from Phillippa, Annette, and Ben messaged that he could not join us until about 8pm

2 Declarations of interest- none

3 Minutes of last meeting of 14th December - agreed

4 Matters Arising –

- a. Rachel reported she had met with HIB re mowing and LRB planters, they are ready to help when needed. She has also been in touch with the Environment Agency and now has the name of the most suitable person to connect with.
- b. Budget - £500 has been agreed for the Skate Park anniversary event.
- c. Annette to be asked to check whether the Millennium Green are planning anything too.
- d. 10 year Tree Strategy - ESC Tree Strategy person has agreed to meet with the committee, perhaps come to our next meeting, being first item on the agenda so she can leave early. Phillippa to send invite.
- e. YAH-R meeting - task groups have been set up and programmes are being decided. Ben is working on gathering young people's ideas as to the plans for skatepark.
- f. Action Plan - is not on tonight's agenda but Joyce and Phillippa to work on making sure it matches the Terms of Reference, which, subject to them being agreed at this meeting, also have to be ratified by the full council.

5 Open Spaces

- a. Joyce and Annette leafleted near all the open spaces that are to have trees planted. 2 comments were received. Thanks came in from an Allington Close resident and concerns from a Barley Meadow resident. Joyce visited and reassured her that trees were to be planted round the edge of the space.
- b. Lisa reported that Allington Close and Kennedy Close had been planted, Barley Meadow should be done on Thursday 13th, Old Station Road on Monday 16th. Some small hedging /shrub plants have already been planted there, along the fences of houses backing on to the field. No spirals or canes used, hoping vandals will not notice the planting. These are the free trees from the Sicon Charity.
- c. Bamboo removal at Kennedy Close. Tim Perkins agreed to do a day with a digger and see how much could be removed. Joyce and Lisa met with his son on Monday 9th and agreed it was worth another two day's work to remove as much as possible including pulling up roots. Thereafter weedkiller will be needed. Removal of bamboo and roots will be done in the summer when dry although best method not yet worked out. The resident who raised the issue has been kept informed.

- d. The committee agreed that 2 more days of removal (£250 per day) be agreed to be paid from the £10,000 CIL money approved.
- e. Lisa to count up how many bird boxes were promised and where. To be commissioned from the Men's Shed.
- f. Benches have been chosen but their fixing to the ground not yet finalised by Philippa. It was agreed to aim to have it all done by April, when some of the trees might be flowering and send pictures to the Community News.

6 Climate Convention - Rachel and Gini have met once and scheduled their next meeting. Planning 2 days of speakers and stalls for local organisations, including the Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Agency information about flooding. September 2023 is looking busy with Charter fayre, ride and stride and heritage weekend so possibly move to first weekend in October.

Funding, there is already £1,000 in our budget and SCC will also match up to £10,000 for environmental projects.

Rachel to send Joyce the details of this and liaise with Nick how to apply. Next meeting, they will have more details. Now to be a regular item on this committee agenda.

7 Plastic free - It is hoped this will be part of the Climate convention. Perhaps asking a local business like Grow to speak about how they have an environmental approach to business.

8 Draft Terms of Reference

'Events' is at present the responsibility of the full council but it is felt that it sits more logically with this committee. Given the resources made available in the budget for marketing and events the committee agreed that it should be incorporated into the new terms of reference. It needs resources,

It was also agreed that 'Tourism' is also to come under this committee.

Rachel Kellett queried why the skatepark was a separate item from the other play spaces.

Size and importance were seen as the reason.

Various suggestions for changing wording were agreed.

It was proposed by Rachel Kellett and seconded by Keith Greenberg that the revised terms of reference be agreed.

Annette Dunning's reservations passed to Rachel Kellett were considered. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

(Post meeting note from JM. When finalising the words and layout JM gave further consideration to the issue of the skatepark raised by Rachel Kellett. A further change has been suggested and a further draft has been sent round to members for comment. This may need to come back to the next committee before going to full council)

9 Wayfinding and Signage project – now moved from Planning and Highways to this committee as related to tourism/visitors.

A report from JM was considered by the committee along with reports from the consultants engaged to help develop the designs of a new signage system. The many ideas were discussed and favourably received.

The project is an outcome from the Neighbourhood Plan about how to support the local economy and improve the town centre.

Recommendations in the report:

- I. The Leisure and Environment Committee agrees to the sum of £70000 being bid for from the Councils available and predicted CIL funds. *Rachel proposed and Keith seconded.*
- II. The Leisure and Environment committee recommends to the Council that a bid for £70,00 is considered alongside other bids for Neighbourhood CIL funding, together with use of Council reserves, if necessary, and noting that other additional sources of funding are to be explored. *Rachel Kellett proposed, and Rosemary seconded.*

The recommendations were unanimously approved.

10 News items - update on tree planting for Community News, which has gone in today. Lisa to check with Nick tomorrow if something can be added to the main HTC article. Lisa and Keith to formulate wording.