

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Monday 14th November, 2022 at 6.30pm held in the Council Chambers,
London Rd, Halesworth**

Present: Councillors; J Moseley (Chair), K Greenberg, A Dunning.

In Attendance: P Welby (Assistant Town Clerk), Lisa Simmonds, Revd. Gini Williams, Maggie Wisniewski and Ben Waters.

Minutes

- 1. Apologies and welcomes** – Apologies from Cllr Kellett. Cllr Moseley welcomed Ben Waters and Maggie Wisniewski who were there to observe the meeting. She also thanked Martin Dominic for all his work on the Committee. Both the Clerk and Cllr Moseley had also written to him directly.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - None
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes** – Halesworth in Bloom had requested that the wildflower area in the Town Park is cut back as people cannot reach the bench easily. Cllr Kellett was to arrange for a meeting with HiB, Cllr Moseley and Norse to discuss. **RK**
Community Funding – Halesworth in Bloom do not require any funding at this point.
The anti-litter banner suggestions and alternatives looked at by the committee will be dealt with in more detail when the Town Park is owned by the Town Council.
- 5. Bamboo at Kennedy Ave/Close open space** – Cllr Greenberg proposed that the Clerk get quotes for the removal of the bamboo at Kennedy Close green space and subject to it being within budget limitations, remove the bamboo. Cllr Dunning seconded it. All agreed.
- 6. Budget** – The Committee's action plan was used to guide the budget discussion. This year is the first year that the committees will be setting their own budgets and the final budget will go through many iterations and has to be agreed by Finance Committee and full Council in February/March. At this stage the committee needed to say what they thought was needed although money will have to come from different sources – precept/revenue budget, reserves, CiL and grant funding.

Environment issues

- Tree planting – budget still needed for 10 year strategy
- Plastic Free Town – **Cllr Dunning to send through details of the plastic free town scheme for discussion at the next meeting and a budget to be set if agreed.**
- EV charging points – no budget required
- Climate Convention – the committee thought it a good idea to go into partnership with the initiative being taken by the Church to hold a Climate Convention in the Autumn as planning for a spring event was tight. **JM to discuss with RK.** £1000 agreed for next year for publicity.
- Flooding and Environment Agency information leaflet. The proposals for getting this information out to the town had not progressed. To be taken into the Climate Convention. Whether any budget required still to be decided.

Play Areas

The priority was to bring the Town Park up to NEAP standards as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. Full consultations had already been done ascertaining what children wanted. Costings had previously been presented to the committee but needed updating. £30,000 for a double zipwire to be in 2023/24 budget.

A full-size basketball court/MUGA had also been costed previously. Plans for this needed to be a part of the planning for the skatepark but indication is that this is wanted by young people. £50,000 for the MUGA. This would require the possible moving of the Teen Shelter. £5,000 in the budget of 2023/4.

Cllr Dunning leaves the meeting at 7.20pm

There needs to be a strategic review of the other play areas and open spaces once they are transferred to HTC. Cllr Greenberg will take a lead. Consideration as to whether any budget required for next year still needed.

Skatepark

Consultation had been done with young people and a group was being formed to take forward ideas and plan for renewal of the skatepark. BW is part of this group. Agreed £1000 for further consultation for each of the next three years. For designing and planning £20,000 in 2023/4. For build £70,000 in 2024/5 and £50,000 in 2025/26

Maintenance costs still to be worked out.

- 7. Open Spaces** – The actions set out in the report were reviewed and updated. The Clerk will contact tree surgeons to get a price for the bamboo removal at Kennedy Close open space.

The style of benches for the spaces have been chosen – a recycled plastic three seater and a picnic bench. Clerk to contact RAW Consortium to arrange a quote for fitting. Committee members suggested that some form of concrete base would be needed. Clerk to investigate types and costs.

A leaflet is to be drafted to be sent to residents surrounding the spaces to inform them of the developments. **JM/PW**

- 8. Update of the action plan** – This was covered when the committee went through the budget aspirations.
- 9. Skate Park** – The Food.Skate.Ball event in the park attracted over 80 young people. It had been planned and executed within 7 weeks. Cllr Moseley has a meeting with Sam Kenward (ESC) and Poppy Lovell (Community Action Suffolk) to look at the information collected on the post it notes from the young people attending the event and plan next steps. Ben Waters has put himself forward to be a part of the planning.
- 10. Verges at Hill Farm Rd** – A resident has raised mowing issues about the verges. The Clerk will try to establish who owns the green space between Holton Road and Castle Hill. Once the Town Council own the other green spaces being proposed in the transfer, places like this will become part of an overall strategy for the maintenance of green spaces in the town including mowing strategies.
- 11. Proposal to bring ‘Events’ onto the L&E Committee** At present events are held by the full Council. The committee thought that there was a need for a strategic overview of events so different events did not clash with each other and a need for coherent marketing. The planning and provision of actual events requires extra help and resources. Some of this is already done by groups in town but new events needed extra resource from outside the Council. The logic is that the Leisure committee takes on the strategic overview. For further discussion.
- 12. News Items** - None
- 13. Correspondence** - None
- 14. Date of Next Meeting 6.30pm 14th December 2022**