

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM VIRTUAL FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2020

PRESENT Councillors Monkman, Atkinson, Angharad, Harris, Oldfield, L Ploughman, N Ploughman and B Bellamy

IN ATTENDANCE Emma Smith (Town Clerk) and 3 members of the public

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- FAC107 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**
Cllr Monkman was appointed Chairperson of the Committee for 2020-21
- FAC108 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON**
Cllr L Ploughman was appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for 2020-21
- FAC109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
None
- FAC110 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**
None
- FAC111 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**
None
- FAC112 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**
Item 16, 17, 18, and 19 due to sensitive information regarding car parking
- FAC113 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- A member of the public spoke about the problems of litter within Belper. Appendix 1.
 - A member of the public came to talk about how this Council considers the principles of Green recovery. The member of the public is disappointed that this doesn't feature more prominently in the investment plans. At the moment it is very dependent on local initiatives outside of Central Government. Committee to consider two initiatives 1) regarding active travel and 2) involvement of the local population in improving the environment and in tree planting.
 - Borough Councillor B Bellamy reported changes in the current COVID measures enforced by Derbyshire County Council within the Town.
- FAC114 MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 28 JANUARY 2020**
RESOLVED Committee approved the minutes of the Facilities, Environment and Local Economy Committee meeting held on 28 January 2020.
- FAC115 MONTHLY MARKET**
RESOLVED Assistant Town Clerks plans for re-opening the monthly market in July 2020 approved by the Committee.

- FAC116 FUTURE ALLOTMENT AREAS**
RESOLVED Cllr Angharad and Monkman to investigate who owns the Milford Allotments. To come up with ideas of working with the Community regarding shared allotments spaces.
- FAC117 COPPICE CARPARK LIGHTING QUOTES**
RESOLVED Cllr Harris and B Bellamy to work on a proposal regarding the current lighting situation within the Coppice car park to bring back to a future Committee meeting for approval.
- FAC118 ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS**
RESOLVED To recommend to Full Council in September that both the Coppice and St John's car park would benefit from electric car charging points and to include these in the budget for 2021/22.
- FAC119 COMMUNITY ORCHARD – SNOWBERRY AVENUE**
Cllr Angharad stated Amber Valley Borough Council had commenced the planting around the perimeter of the site. Residents would have liked to have been part of this planting scheme but due to COVID restrictions this could not be achieved.
RESOLVED To note
- FAC120 OIL SPILLAGES AT MORRISONS DEPOT**
RESOLVED Correspondence received from the Environment Agency has been noted. Town Clerk to send a letter to Morrisons regarding the removal of the clothing bins and have Morrisons get any recordings from the CCTV regarding people fly tipping in this area.
- FAC121 BELPER TOWN COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME**
Applications have been received by the Town Clerk, the closing date for any nominations is 31 July 2020 with a ceremony set for September as long as Government guidance allows for this.
RESOLVED To note
- FAC122 ST JOHNS CAR PARK SENSOR**
RESOLVED Town Clerk to look at the current setup of the lighting in the carpark and report back to the September 2020 Committee meeting.
- FAC123 FLOODING ISSUES**
RESOLVED All Facilities, Environment and Local Economy Committee Members agreed to be Flood Wardens for 2020/21. Cllr Monkman and Oldfield will produce a paper regarding this matter for the meeting in September 2020. This will include training, flooding procedure manual and Community volunteers.

- FAC124 SIGNAGE AT THE BELPER RUGBY CLUB**
RESOLVED Fencing has now been installed at the Rugby Club near the river. Town Clerk to organise a plaque to state the fence was paid for by the Council.
- FAC125 LIGHTING ON THE GEESE ROUNDABOUT**
RESOLVED Town Clerk to find out if the lights are still working on the roundabout and to find out where the power supply comes from. The Committee would like these lights turning on if possible if not Cllr Harris and Bellamy will investigate the feasibility of commercial solar lights.
- FAC126 #NO MOW MAY**
RESOLVED Environmentalists have come up with the idea of no mow May. Cllr Monkman and Town Clerk will discuss this with the outdoor team as to what areas could be a potential site for this idea ready for next May.
- FAC127 LITTER IN BELPER**
RESOLVED an industrial bin to be sited at Derwent Street for 3 months at a cost of £20 per month. Create a volunteer group called The Belper Wombles for litter picking activities. Look into possible ways of educating Primary and Secondary School students on the issues regarding litter and bring back to the next Committee meeting. Establish a Working group to enable this initiative with the following members Cllr Atkinson, N Ploughman, B Bellamy and L Ploughman.
- FAC128 BUSES IN BELPER**
Cllr Monkman wrote to Trent Barton regarding the bus service not currently running on Far Laund. A resident has written to Cllr Monkman regarding their concerns due to Pharmacies stopping deliveries of medication soon.
RESOLVED Town Clerk to write to Amber Valley Community Transport to establish if an additional transport service could be looked into within Far Laund area.
- FAC129 ACCESSIBILITY**
Cllr Monkman wanted to highlight that dropped kerbs and access areas have been introduced at the Morrisons and Aldi retail park
RESOLVED To note
- FAC130 CLERKS REPORT**
a) Bus Shelter
RESOLVED To note no installation date from Derbyshire County Council due to COVID-19
b) Canoe Pass
RESOLVED To note Amber Valley Borough Council are awaiting a renewed quote.
c) Car park barrier

RESOLVED To initiate Newgate to remove the car park barrier at St John's car park at a cost of £633.00. Newgate will then issue the Council with a buy back price for consideration.

d) Land at Milford

RESOLVED To note Highways England were contacted on 2 March and again on 21 June awaiting a response.

e) Dog bin replacements

RESOLVED To note new bins installed at Bridge Foot (this has been moved further down due to emptying problems) and Sewerage Works (larger capacity bin) there was no charge for the new bins.

f) Pingle Green site maintenance

RESOLVED Outdoor team are not able to add this maintenance into their current schedule this year. The Committee have asked if this could be built into next year's schedule.

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, in order to discuss these items has been resolved.

FAC131 LIBRARY LEASE SPACES

RESOLVED Cllr Harris contact Derbyshire County Council regarding what space there maybe available for Council to use and report back to the next Committee meeting.

FAC132 CAR PARKING CHARGES ON THE COPPICE CAR PARK

RESOLVED to review this idea at the next Committee meeting.

FAC133 CARPARK OFFER

RESOLVED the Committee will not be taking up the offer. Town Clerk to contact the owner to let them know the decision made.

FAC134 SHARED CAR PARKING MEETINGS

Town Clerk and Cllr Monkman met with Belper Town Football Club regarding the possibility of a shared car parking space. Cllr Monkman and Town Clerk to schedule a meeting with Belper Meadows Community Sports Club.

RESOLVED To note

FAC135 NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED 22 September 2020 location to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

Chairperson

Date 22 September 2020

Appendix 1

I'd like to say a few words about the problem of litter in Belper. I've been lucky enough to go on holiday to France, the USA and China in recent years, and it is very striking how clean these countries are compared to the UK. I feel quite disturbed and ashamed about how dirty our country is in general, and unfortunately Belper is no exception.

I would like to thank the council and its employees who do a great job trying to keep on top of the problem, but unfortunately at the moment it feels like we are losing the battle.

I'd like to suggest three main areas where I feel we could all work together to bring more resources to bear on the problem. I appreciate that some of these may be outside the Town council's remit, but I know that many of the members are also borough councillors, and so I think it's worthwhile to talk about them tonight. I also apologise if these ideas are already in place and I'm not aware of them.

The first is the coordination of volunteer litter pickers. There are many of us in my area who go out and voluntarily pick up litter on a regular basis, but this effort is not coordinated. I don't know who the other people are or where and when they are litter picking. This means that I could be covering an area that has just been cleaned. Similarly, there is a lack of awareness of when the council picks litter and empties bins, so we could be doing it just after the council has been.

I know there is a volunteer register kept by the Town council which has done some litter picks, but what I'm suggesting is an expansion of this, so that volunteers may effectively supplement council resources and we can work together to clean up our neighbourhoods.

Maybe this is a simple WhatsApp group, or it could make use of existing schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, but however we do it, the end result is that volunteer efforts become more effective.

The second suggestion is to engage more with businesses in Belper who want to make more of a contribution towards addressing the problem of litter. My own company would be happy to help and there may be others who feel as concerned about the issue as us. Given the current economic problems due to the pandemic I do appreciate timing may be an issue with this, but those companies that have not been too badly affected may still be prepared to help. Maybe this is sponsoring a bin or volunteering staff time – whatever would help the most.

Thirdly, I feel we could make more use of technology in the form of apps such as LoveCleanStreets, where citizens can report the location of littering and hopefully give the council better quality information about where the need is. This is mentioned in the National Litter Strategy and I believe is in use in some other areas of the country.

The obvious subject I haven't mentioned is addressing the people who create the litter in the first place, and I know you already have some ideas around awareness-raising in schools etc. My gut feel is that this seems to be a difficult cultural problem that may take generations to solve, but I applaud any efforts you make in that area.

That's all I wanted to say. Thanks for your time.