



Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

ALLOTMENTS AND LAND COMMITTEE MINUTES Monday 8th July 2024

Present: Cllrs J Bright, J Hobson, J Nichols, E Orhan, S Roberts
Deputy Town Clerk: Julie Belsey

63. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2024/24

Councillor Joanne Bright was elected as Chair.
Councillor Elvira Orhan was elected as Vice Chair

64. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded those present of the right to record, film or broadcast any meetings of the Council, committees and subcommittees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.
Not in attendance: Cllr K Pressland

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67. MINUTES

RESOLVED to RECEIVE and APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024.

68. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

69. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received the draft Terms of Reference and AGREED their APPROVAL. **The Terms of Reference will go to the next Full Council meeting for final APPROVAL.**

70. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF BROADSTAIRS & ST PETER'S

None

71. NORMAN ROAD AND NASH GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

i) Following concerns raised by allotment holders regarding the heavy use of chemicals, the Committee AGREED and APPROVED the following addition to the allotment lease:

We request that the use of potentially harmful weedkillers and pesticides is avoided. The Town Council reserves the right to terminate the tenancy of any plot holder who it believes has contaminated adjoining plots, pathways or their own plot with chemicals.

This additional rule will be sent out to all allotment plot holders and will be added to the lease, which is sent out annually for plot holders to sign.

72. CULMERS AMENITY LAND

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that vandalism had occurred to the bench which was in memory of Charles Culmer. The bench was unable to be saved, so it has been disposed of with the plaque returned to CT10 Charities, who placed the bench there.

73. **MOCKETT'S WOOD**

i) As part of the Town Council's insurance, we are required to provide a Management Plan for Mockett's Wood. The Volunteer Tree Warden has sourced a company that can carry this out. We have been quoted £860 for a walkover survey and site visit and the production of a high-level management plan including mapping of the site and enhancement opportunities.

The Committee AGREED and APPROVED using David Archer Associates for the production of the Management Plan at a cost of £860 to be taken from the Mockett's Wood budget.

The Deputy Town Clerk will contact David Archer Associates to arrange the site visit along with the Volunteer Tree Warden and Cllr K Pressland.

ii) The Woods have been subject to vandalism to some trees recently. The volunteer Tree Warden has reported this to the police. The Town Clerk has been in touch with the local beat Officer and arranged for him and the Volunteer Tree Warden to speak with regards to patrols within this area.

74. **PIERREMONT PARK GROUNDS**

i) A quote has been received for the repair of fencing behind the music room. The fencing cannot be removed as the ground levels are different heights, with removal meaning the area behind the fence would fall onto the pathway.

The Committee AGREED and APPROVED the quote for 6 posts to be installed and supplied to secure existing fencing. All materials included @ £600 – to be taken from the Pierremont Hall Annual Maintenance budget.

Cllr S Roberts left the meeting.

75. **VICTORIA GARDENS**

i) The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee on the ongoing work at Victoria Gardens. Our two gardeners have done an amazing job and have had many members of the public commenting on how good the gardens look. They are very happy with the formality and colour that is now returning to the gardens.

A press release in the Broadstairs Beacon and also on our social media has also shown the work undertaken and also thanked Morellis and York Gate Ice Cream Parlour for their sponsorship, along with Paul Verrall and the Town Team for the donation of plants.

We now have a storage area at the top of Louisa Bay, which we share with the Town Team.

Thanet Council Open Spaces continue to be very helpful and TDC have confirmed that it is their intention to extend the licence for a minimum of one year.

Discussion was had with regards to the Uncle Mac memorial and Councillor Bright will take this to TDC.

ii) A discussion was had regarding additional green spaces and the **Committee proposed that Balmoral Gardens and the 2 circular beds at Pierremont be added to the cultivation licence, plus the employment of an extra part time gardener (30hrs) with training/working with apprentices experience be employed. Proposal to be taken to Full Council.**

76. **GROUND'S MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the current grounds maintenance contract with Box Green for the Pierremont Hall Grounds and Culmers amenity area finishes on 31st March.

The Deputy Town Clerk gave options for the next course of action as follows:

Option 1 - To extend the current contract – period to be discussed.

Pros:

- Continuity of service by a provider who has worked with us for 6 years, having been the successful contractor on two occasions.

- Service Provider also undertakes additional works on a regular basis as required.
- Good working relationship with contract provider.

Cons:

- Value for money – a new tender will allow us to ensure that we are still getting value for money.

Option 2 - To put the contract out to tender – period to be discussed.

Pros:

- Value for money – a new tender will allow us to ensure that we are still getting value for money

Cons:

- Will a new provider give the same standard of service?
- Will a new provider be readily available to provide additional requirements?
- Building up a new working relationship.

Option 3 - To use Town Council Gardeners.

Pros:

- Dependent on work, immediate availability if required.
- Easy discussion over future works.

Cons:

- We do not have the equipment for large scale works, or the storage capacity should we purchase the equipment.
- We do not have any designated space/facility to carry out additional works, i.e. potting, composting, repairs, storage of new planting, shelter for staff etc.
- The cost of additional staff, machinery etc will surpass the cost of a contractor providing the service.
- We do not have the continual use of a vehicle for moving of equipment and staff to locations as required. (The current van is used by the Facilities Team on a daily basis).

The Committee AGREED that the grounds maintenance contract will go out to tender as per option 2.

The Deputy Town Clerk will bring the tender details to the October meeting to be approved.

77. FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting: 21st October 2024

To include the Allotment Holders Open Meeting.

Meeting Closed at 7.58pm
Deputy Town Clerk