

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday, 24 November 2015 at 5.00pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr T Crouch

Cllr S Taylor – presiding Cllr G Ellis Cllr T Taylor Cllr T Perkins ina Lopes Town Clerk & Anne Willett, Clerk's Assist

In attendance – Gina Lopes, Town Clerk & Anne Willett, Clerk's Assistant

34.15) Apologies for absence

None – all members present

35.15) Declarations of Interest in items below

a) To receive and consider declarations of interest - None
b) To receive and consider any requests for dispensation of Disclosable
Pecuniary Interest - None

36.15) Public Participation

No public present

37.15) Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2015

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19 October 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed the minutes

38.15) Environmental Matters

a) New Picnic Benches -

Quotes received were considered and discussed.

RESOLVED to accept and approve quotations 19327 and 19309 from Fenland Leisure to install picnic bench at Cygnet Close play area and another bench and "wetpour" edge repairs at Lomond Road play area to a total of £5318.80

b) New Play Equipment quotes – Play equipment quotes were considered for the Recreation Ground and Gaymers and there was a lengthy discussion.

RESOLVED to install the Ash Show unit as specified within Fenland Leisure quotation 19322 to a total of £5,513.16 at the Gaymers site

There was a request to seek a quote to install a traditional see-saw and the Clerk to obtain same. There was a suggestion that the proposals for the Recreation Ground may be a suitable project for a S106 application

c) Jubilee Project – The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to obtain quotes to produce the Jubilee monument as after speaking to different wood carvers they were of the opinion that the design would not be suitable to incorporate into the existing tree stump in the Square. The design was intricate and would be of high cost to produce and the stump itself would rot also it may be subject to vandalism if outside. There was a discussion on this subject and ClIr Ellis advised that he had previously suggested a contractor that would have made the monument in granite and donated it to the Council but that this was not progressed at the time. The Clerk suggested that the monument could be made to a size that would fit within the bay window space in the Town Hall thus removing the vandalism risk and hopefully making it more affordable to produce. She suggested that the base (diamond) be in toughened glass and the cider press could then be hand carved

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain quotations to produce the monument to sit in the bay window as discussed and report back to members in due course

e) Closed churchyard – Cllr Ellis advised that there had not been any progress on this project as the College students were busy but he raised concerns regarding the recent vandalism of the churchyard wall. The Clerk confirmed that she had the quotes for the wall repair and that these would be considered at the next full council meeting

f) Woodland Trust – Community tree packs – The offer of tree packs was considered and it was noted these trees would be very small and may be subject to vandalism. The Clerk also asked members to consider the time involved in planting the trees and confirmed she had recently spoken to Mr Thomas, the tree surgeon regarding the future planting of trees within the council sites.

RESOLVED that a tree pack of 105 trees would be requested and that Mr Thomas be contacted to advise on appropriate planting sites once the trees were received **g) Budget 2016/17** – The Clerk confirmed she had met with the Head Groundsman to identify items for budget consideration and had a list of machinery with costs required. The purchase of a new lawn mower was discussed at some length and the Clerk was asked to obtain a repair costing for the existing mower.

RESOLVED that the Clerk seek a repair quote for the Ransome mower and also include a budget for the purchase of Decoy Common; figures to be considered within future budget discussions by members

h) Any other matters -

Bench – The Clerk confirmed she had received a letter from a resident offering £200 donation for a memorial bench to be placed in the cemetery.

RESOLVED to accept the donation of £200 for a bench to be installed in the cemetery and the Clerk to seek quotations for an appropriate bench

Fruit trees – The Clerk reported that Cllr Crouch had provided quotes for fruit trees and advised that she had previously discussed the siting of the trees with Mr

Thomas. Cllr Crouch offered to collect the trees if he could use the council's van **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for the fruit trees and that Cllr Crouch use the van to collect the trees and liaise with Mr Thomas and the Groundsman regarding the planting of same

Bus shelter – Cllr S Taylor offered to paint out the graffiti in the bus shelter and asked the Clerk to find out if any of the original paint was left over for this task

The meeting closed at 6pm