

TOWN COUNCIL OF FRINTON AND WALTON

**MINUTES of the Recreation and Amenities Committee
held at the Council House, Frinton-on-Sea,
Thursday 21 July 2022 commencing at 7.15pm**

Present:

Councillors: E Allen (Chairman)
F Robertson, I Johnson, L Allen, A Oxley,

Apologies:

Councillors: P Walford, C Keston, D Oxley

Absent:

Councillors: P Clifton, F Knowles

In Attendance:

Town Clerk: Mrs J. Woodland

RA/22/01

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr E Allen preside as Chairman of the Recreation & Amenities Committee for the current municipal year.

RA/22/02

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs P Walford, C Keston and D Oxley

RA/22/03

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 28TH April 2022 be approved as a true record.

RA/22/04

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ABOVE MEETING

The Clerk requested clarification as to whether Members wished to pursue the fire panel monitoring as requests for further quotes had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED that the initial quote was to be accepted and the work to be conducted.

RA/22/05

COLUMBINE CENTRE

- a) Members received a written report on Columbine Centre promotional activities and bookings for information.
- b) The Clerk provided a verbal update on the following areas.
 - i. Gutter lining works complete
 - ii. The issue of leaks in two areas of the roof remain an issue and it was found on further surveying of the area that the roof membrane has deteriorated and requires replacement. A temporary repair has been conducted, but a full repair/replacement is needed along with full roof coating works to be undertaken, as previously advised. The Clerk was requested to obtain quotes and research the possibility of a PWLB Loan to cover this and the potential opportunity for further investment to purchase the ground which is currently leased.
 - iii. The floor is due to be stripped back and repaired/recoated in August for which funds are in an Earmarked Reserve to cover.
 - iv. Corona Energy gas supply contract ends on 31.08.22. Prices expected to rise due to the recent changes in the energy market – advised this is currently in-hand for sourcing the best possible price, and that the Clerk would write to the Bowls Club to inform of the price increase to energy once renewed.
 - v. Promotional video is now proofed and ready to release onto social media. Cllr Allen requested that historic photographic footage of weddings be included in the video. The Clerk agreed to find out if this were possible and, on the basis that suitable media with written consent could be provided, as the Council do not hold any suitable media for use.
 - vi. The Clerk updated Members on an issue that had happened at Walton Market that morning.
- c) Members reviewed the proposed amendments to the current pricing tariff for the hire of the Columbine Centre, which aimed to simplify the current structure of charges. The Clerk reminded Members of the need to consider the impact of price changes on the Council's current VAT Deminimis status.

RESOLVED that the current pricing structure would remain in place due to the challenging times that the COVID pandemic had put on everyone, and the current cost of living challenges faced by the community.

RA/22/06

FESTIVE LIGHTS

Members received a written update on the current position with festive lighting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Allen would speak to Cllr Platt as member representative for Essex County Council, and to Essex Highways, regarding the ownership of the remedials required to the lamp columns to enable festive lights to function, as it was felt that the remedials should not be down to the Town Council to undertake or fund.

RA/22/07

POST OFFICE

Members received the written report of the trading figures for the Post Office following its first year of trading. Members noted a loss of £14099 in the first year, to which the Clerk advised would worsen when the current year pay award is confirmed and backdated.

RESOLVED To resolve pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude Press and Public from the meeting for the following item of business because of its special and confidential nature:

- Post Office - personnel matters relating to Post Office staff to which would be identifiable to individuals otherwise.

The Clerk agreed to speak to Post Office staff regarding Saturday working hours.

RA/22/08

SHELTER CLEANING

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the shelter cleaning and highlighted that the specification currently in use will need revising at the next tender exercise due to it not being specific to the varying types of roof materials on the shelters which require a different cleaning approach. Other than the disparity caused by this issue, there were no reports of concerns to the quality of cleaning.

RA/22/09

LINDEN HOMES PROPOSAL

Members received a written communication from Linden Homes requesting our engagement in their proposal to move both the bus shelter and the Kirby Cross town sign to enable permanent changes to the road layout at the Halstead Road/Frinton Road junction in Kirby Cross.

RESOLVED that Cllr Allen would meet onsite with a representative from Linden Homes to discuss options. Clerk to arrange a site meeting.

Members expressed an interest in using this opportunity to prompt discussions on replacement of the bus shelter and the renovation of the town sign, which will be raised by Cllr Allen when meeting with Linden Homes.

RA/22/10

SPINNEY PLAQUE

Members reviewed the plaque received for installation at Agar Road Gardens.

With regards to a plaque for The Spinney, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Frinton in Bloom to enquire as to whether they were sourcing a plaque for the Magnolia Tree planted for the Queen's Green Canopy project.

RA/22/11

ALLOTMENTS

- a) The Clerk advised Members that the planned Annual Allotment Inspection had not taken place due the date chosen turning out to be the hottest day in an extraordinary heatwave and so had been postponed to the following week.
- b) Members reviewed the current tariff for Allotments. **RESOLVED** those prices remain with no change for the year 2023/2024 due to the current cost of living crisis.

RA/22/12

KIRBY IN BLOOM

The Clerk provided Members with a verbal update that we had been made aware of Kirby in Bloom ceasing and therefore the flower beds that had been stocked and maintained by them, were no longer being tended to. Reference was made to an historic agreement believed to have been in place whereby the beds would be turfed back to their original state, by Kirby in Bloom, when passed back to the Town Council.

RA/22/13

MANDATORY HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & REMEDIALS TO COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Members noted the written report detailing the status of mandatory health & safety requirements, and the impact of this on the budget v. expenditure for 201/4036 and 101/4036 buildings/renewals, and 101/4040 for fire/security alarms.

The Clerk verbally advised of an issue that had presented during the week whereby the cold-water storage tank in the Chamber had overflowed into a deteriorated overflow pipe resulting in considerable water ingress to the brickwork and the internal walls immediately below the first floor, which had caused flood damage to internal décor. The ballcock in the storage tank had been renewed pending a decision on whether the tank should be removed to mains water conversion since the removal of the tank would solve many of the outstanding actions on the Legionella Risk Assessment that had yet to be considered and conducted.

RESOLVED that removal of the storage tank to convert to mains water conversion at the quoted amount of £695 to be expended from 101/4036 goes ahead. Members noted that as per earlier discussions, this expenditure is an overspend, albeit a considered spend on the budget.

RA/22/14

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Members received correspondence from a local resident requesting consideration to the provision and installation of a bench to the bus shelter near to Frinton Railway Station. It was noted that the resident had also written to Tendring District Council also requesting their consideration to the same matter.

RESOLVED that the Council did not currently have any appetite to make this provision due to future potential requests on the Council's remaining bus shelters, which would impact on unbudgeted costs for both provision and maintenance. It was also considered that a provision of seating could encourage anti-social behaviour, which was already problematic in some areas. Agreed that the Clerk would reply to the letter to advise on the decision.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Next Meeting: 1st September 2022

CHAIRMAN