



Seaford Town Council

Community Services Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held at **37 Church Street, Seaford** on **Thursday 17 September 2015** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Councillor C Campbell (Chairman)

Councillor A McLean (Vice Chair)

Councillors D Argent, P Boorman, M Brown, R Chambers, L Freeman, R Hayder, O Honeyman, I Murray and L Worcester.

Mr Ben King, Projects & Facilities Manager - Seaford Town Council.

Miss Rachel Beard, Administration Assistant (Facilities) - Seaford Town Council (minutes).

6 members of the public.

CS 10/09/15 Apologies for Absence and Declaration of Substitute Members

Apologies were received from Councillor D Silvey-Adam who was substituted by Councillor L Worcester.

CS 11/09/15 Declaration of Interests

Councillor M Brown addressed the Committee to seek approval to sit on the Community Services Committee for this meeting only as Cllr Brown does not officially sit on this committee.

The Committee **AGREED** for Councillor Brown to attend this meeting.

CS 12/09/15 Public Participation

Richard Honeyman

Raised a point on Item 6 Seaford in Bloom and wanted clarification on the following points; does Seaford in Bloom exist as it ceased in 2013? What efforts are being made by the Council to start up Seaford in Bloom again? Will it be as a slimmed down version compared to previous years? Does Seaford in Bloom set a precedent for groups that disband that Seaford Town Council will pick it up and carry on?

Projects & Facilities Mgr

Stated that it has been brought to the Committee to decide if Seaford in Bloom (SIB) i.e. the town floral displays, continue. Seaford Town Council was entrusted with the reserve funds and the management of the flowers following the winding up of the SIB Committee. The Projects & Facilities Manager understands that the flowers are a valuable attraction for the residents and visitors in Seaford and the Committee is asked to now decide how to approach the future for the displays. The primary objective will be first of all to re-establish a group,

independent of the Council with the aim of best value being achieved for the community. Failing that other options will be researched by officers with the assistance of a volunteer.

Keith Blackburn

Raised the point that the residents appreciate Seaford in Bloom. It was also mentioned that it has a major impact on the tourism in Seaford. It was requested that not only just the cost was considered but the other factors that make it so valuable before making a decision to carry on with Seaford in Bloom or not.

Chairman

Stated that all aspects will be looked into before making a final decision.

Fiona House

Approached the Committee with the idea to use the flower pots for Seaford in Bloom in the memorial options that Seaford Town Council provide for the community; this could also raise funds to go towards other projects for the community.

Chairman

Agreed to look into this option with Officers.

Sylvia Dunn

Stated that she was to raise points on behalf of Neil Smith who was unable to make the meeting. In relation to The Salts Development Plan he would like to make a project proposal for the footpath/cycle path around the outside of the main field at The Salts.

Sylvia Dunn

Informed the Committee of the continuing issue with dog fouling in the open spaces, especially at The Salts. It was asked if any dog control plans are in place. It was also asked if there was an update on the Seafront dog ban near Frankie's Café.

Raised the point of litter on the Seafront and that a review of the summer weekend bin collections still needs to be undertaken. Even though a positive response was seen following the installation of public notices the results were not a fair reflection due to the generally poor summer that was experienced.

Cycling on the promenade between Martello Tower and Splash point still continues. Enquired as to when the new signage will be erected as it is dangerous for pedestrians and beach hut users.

Stated that the storm walls and gullies have not been cleaned since May. It was requested that LDC be notified as the responsibility lies with them. Would the relevant Ward Councillors be in a position to work actively on encouraging LDC and ESCC to clean these areas?

Made the Committee aware that the grass verges which are East Sussex County Council's responsibility is being left too long before being cut which causes blocked drains and potential for flooding. It was requested that this issue be brought to the Strengthening Local Relationships meetings to be resolved.

Projects & Facilities Mgr

Informed the Committee that there has been a lot of feedback following dog fouling and dog control in general. Dog controls and awareness are being looked into as part of The Salts Development Plan work.

In regards to the collection of litter bins and the frequency thereof, Seaford Town Council will aim to work with Lewes District Council to ensure the waste and recycling service review takes the seafront issues into account.

Stated that with final sign drafts completed 'Share with Care' code of conduct signage on the seafront is hoped be in place before the end of this year. The Projects & Facilities Manager continues to put positive pressure on East Sussex County Council to ensure that the scheme is rolled out as soon as possible.

Robert Brown

Stated that he supports Fiona House and the suggestion of the memorial plant pots.

Suggested to the Committee that more litter bins are needed on Bönningstedt parade.

Raised the issue of the Seaford Tourist information Centre and the recent closures due to staffing issues at Lewes District Council. It was suggested that a public announcement be made.

Councillor Boorman

Informed the Committee that there has been contact between the Town Clerk and Lewes District Council to discuss options. Lewes District Council has stated that this is only a temporary situation.

Roger Foxwell

Raised a point on Agenda Item 6 and suggested that Seaford Town Council seek other quotes for the plant suppliers due to the cost.

Raised the point of the Salts Children's Play Area grass/turfing being ineffective and that there has already been some injury to children. The matter needs to be resolved and the contractor held accountable.

Chairman

Stated that many visits were made just this last week and meetings held with the Projects & Facilities Manager to ensure the safety of the site. The conclusion is that the overall play

area is safe for continued use, however any works taking place would of course need to be managed safely by the contractor.

Ernie Hill

Requested an answer as to why shrubs at the allotments were cut back to the extent that the portable toilet is now visible.

Projects & Facilities Mgr

Stated that the Allotment Society will be asked the above question.

CS 13/09/15 Finance Report

Members considered report 75/15.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the report.

CS 14/09/15 Projects & Facilities Manager – Update Report

Members considered report 76/15.

The report was **NOTED**.

CS 15/09/15 Seaford in Bloom – Town Centre Floral Displays

Members considered report 77/15.

CS 15.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to continue with Seaford in Bloom for 2016/2017.

CS 15.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that the fund be met either from a reduction in the Community Services budget elsewhere or in an increase in Council Tax of approximately 1% to be decided when setting the Committee budget.

CS 15.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor P Boorman as the Coordinator/Volunteer for the Seaford in Bloom project.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Councillor C Campbell
Chairman