

MINUTES of the MEETING of the HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE, on TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2020 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Lesley Howes – Chairman
Councillor Linda Hall – Vice-Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Peter Harman (ex-officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding, Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
Lis Dyson, Kent County Council (KCC)

ABSENT: There were none.

508/19-20. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

509/19-20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anita Barham.

510/19-20. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were none.

511/19-20. **TO DECLARE INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

512/19-20. **URGENT ITEMS / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

There were none.

513/19-20. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2019.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

514/19-20. **HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.**

The ATC/RFO informed members that the corporate tree planting event had successfully taken place on 4 February 2020 with the Town Mayor in attendance. North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWCKP), who had facilitated the event, would refer any other interested companies to the Town Council in future for consideration for the Heritage Park.

NWKCP were continuing to investigate a possible funding stream for the pond, as well as the other funding options the ATC/RFO was working on.

Natural England had provided information on Earth Science Week from 11 to 17 October 2020. Members were asked to consider whether this was something the Town Council would like to work in partnership with and consider activities for. This would be discussed at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee

Recommended: That the ATC/RFO continue progressing the pond improvements and continue with the other heritage based projects as detailed.

515/19-20. **NATURAL ENGLAND – SWANSCOMBE SKULL SITE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE (NNR) AND SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) - VISUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/LEASE.**

The ATC/RFO advised members of the recent positive meeting held with Natural England to review the Management Plan for the site. Natural England were pleased with the progress the Town Council had made.

Natural England recommended that the Town Council consider looking at protection for the wider Heritage Park and had suggested investigating Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status.

Members agreed for the ATC/RFO to investigate this and report back to the next Sub-Committee meeting.

Recommended: That the information be noted and that the ATC/RFO investigate the process of LNR designation for the wider Heritage Park.

516/19-20. **FRIENDS OF SWANSCOMBE HERITAGE PARK (FOSHP) REPORT OF ACTIVITIES.**

Unfortunately no member of the FOSHP was in attendance and there had been no report submitted prior to the meeting.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

517/19-20. **HERITAGE PARK WEBSITE**

The ATC/RFO reminded members that any items to be included on the website needed to be forwarded to him.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

518/19-20. **ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO HERITAGE.**

The Chairman confirmed that an invitation had been extended to Mark Harrison from Historic England to attend the next meeting of the Local History Group and this was pending.

Lis Dyson advised that KCC were currently working on a mapping exercise for archaeology and find sites within the area, and would like to undertake a presentation to the Sub-Committee on their findings. Members agreed that this presentation would be most welcome.

Lis Dyson confirmed that KCC were liaising with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) on heritage interpretation within the area. A meeting would be arranged with the ATC/RFO to discuss the original interpretation proposals submitted to EDC previously.

Members wished to thank the ATC/RFO for the work he had undertaken, since joining the Town Council, on both improvements to the Heritage Park and raising the profile of the Town Council with organisations' such as Natural England.

519/19-20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Recommended: That the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 10.00am.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 10.35 am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)