

MINUTES of the MEETING of the HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE, on TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Lesley Howes - Chairman
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Lorna Cross (substituting for Councillor Linda Hall)
Councillor Ann Duke

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Bobby - FOSHP
Shirley Fahy – FOSHP
Lyn Keys - FOSHP
Martin Harding, Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
3 x members of the public

ABSENT: There were none

39/19-20. **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.

40/19-20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Linda Hall and Sue Butterfill.

41/19-20. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Lorna Cross substituted for Councillor Linda Hall.

42/19-20. **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.

A resident asked whether the Town Council was considering applying for designating more of the Heritage Park beyond the existing statutory designations applied to the Skull Site. In addition the resident asked what plans the Town Council had to incorporate more local experience and knowledge into the conservation works being undertaken within the park.

The ATC/RFO confirmed that Natural England were considering the possibility of extending the National Nature Reserve status but this would be subject to landowner approval. The ATC/RFO confirmed that he would address the question regarding volunteering during a later item on the agenda.

43/19-20. **URGENT ITEMS / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

There were none.

44/19-20. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 2019.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

45/19-20. **HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.**

The ATC/RFO confirmed that the pond improvements were progressing with work being undertaken to finish the pathway and resolve the water level within the pond itself. The planting and clearance work had been undertaken. Funding for the fencing and dipping platform was still being sought but a summer opening was still the target for the project.

Historic England had sent through the finalised designs for the Heritage Asset markers to set up a Heritage Watch Group. Production of the markers was underway and, once completed, a stakeholder event would be undertaken to identify potential assets for designation. It was hoped that this event could be co-ordinated with a volunteer day for conservation based activities and the opening of the pond.

Recommended: That the ATC/RFO be thanked for his work in progressing heritage improvements and continue with the current projects.

46/19-20. **NATURAL ENGLAND – SWANSCOMBE SKULL SITE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE (NNR) AND SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) - VISUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/LEASE.**

The ATC/RFO confirmed that the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) dig would be held from 19 to 22 July 2019, with the actual dig taking place on Sunday 21 July 2019.

Consent from Natural England for the dig was pending, but once confirmed, more information would be able to be circulated regarding the potential community engagement opportunities.

Recommended: That the item be noted

47/19-20. **FRIENDS OF SWANSCOMBE HERITAGE PARK (FOSHP) REPORT OF ACTIVITIES.**

Brenda Bobby confirmed that the Teddy Bears Picnic was scheduled to be held on 15 August 2019.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

48/19-20. **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.

49/19-20. **ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO HERITAGE.**

The Chairman confirmed that the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Local History Group had attended an archaeological event at the construction site for the Springhead Bridge.

50/19-20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Recommended: That the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 10.00am.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 11.00 am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)

