

MINUTES of the MEETING of the HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE, on TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Ms L C Howes (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs A E D Barham (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ms L M Cross (ex-officio)
Councillor R J Lees (substituting for Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill)

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO

ABSENT: Councillor B E Read

411/17-18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Mrs S P Butterfill, Ms L M Hall and D J Mote.

412/17-18. SUBSTITUTES

Councillor R J Lees substituted for Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill

413/17-18. 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.

414/17-18. URGENT ITEMS / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.

There were none.

415/17-18. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2017.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

416/17-18. HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

The ATC/RFO gave an update on the progress of the Digital Heritage Trail Project. Members were informed that a meeting had been held with representatives from the Software Company and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation in order to progress the project.

A meeting has been arranged for the end of January with Kent Countryside Partnership to discuss support options, funding streams and volunteers.

The ATC/RFO informed the committee that although the Town Council had been unsuccessful with the bid for an AVIVA community fund, AVIVA had awarded the Town Council £100 which will be added to the fund for small projects in 2018-19.

The ATC/RFO had successfully applied for 30 saplings for planting around the Heritage Park from the Woodland Trust and these would be delivered in 2018-19.

Recommended:

1. That the ATC/RFO continue working on the current funding projects.
2. That the date of the meeting with Kent Countryside Partnership be sent to the Chairman to find out her availability to attend.

417/17-18. NATURAL ENGLAND – SWANSCOMBE SKULL SITE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE (NNR) AND SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC (SSSI) – VISUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/LEASE.

Members were informed that the Lease was still with Natural England to finalise and that a date for a catch up meeting with the Town Councils contact was being arranged.

Recommended:

That the item be noted.

418/17-18. ADOPT A KIOSK

Members were provided with the information from British Telecom (BT) on adopting a kiosk. Members discussed the Grade II listed kiosk on Pier Road in Greenhithe and it was felt that further information was required for this Sub-Committee to consider before any information is put out to the wider community.

Recommended:

1. That the ATC/RFO contact BT to find out the usage of the kiosk along with current maintenance costs.
2. That the ATC/RFO contact the Town Councils insurance company to find out the implications of adopting a Grade II kiosk.
3. That the ATC/RFO put together a draft public consultation document for consideration at the next Sub-Committee meeting

419/17-18. **ENGLISH TOURISM WEEK 2018**

Members discussed the options for events that could mark English Tourism Week 2018. The ATC/RFO confirmed that he had been speaking to providers about operating 3 competitions during 2018 to mark this;

- Photography competition around sites of interest within the Town;
- Art competition aimed at children to design a heritage logo for the Town Council to use;
- A best kept Allotment competition to not only mark this but also the 50th Anniversary of Gardeners World.

Members briefly discussed this proposal and suggestions for who could judge each event.

Recommended: That the suggested competitions be taken forward and organised to mark English Tourism Week 2018.

420/17-18. **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.

421/17-18. **HERITAGE PARK WEBSITE**

This item reminded everyone that any items to be included on the website needed to be forwarded to the ATC/RFO.

The ATC/RFO confirmed that he now had the log in details and instructions for the website and would look to update the site throughout 2018-19 as improvements were made and events organised.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

422/17-18. **ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO HERITAGE.**

The Chairman confirmed that the Local History Group had expressed an interest in the chapel within Swanscombe Cemetery and would be liaising with DBC to consider getting it either listed or registered as a 'building at risk' with Historic England.

Councillor R J Lees asked whether any update could be provided on the results from the recent surveys undertaken within the Heritage Park for both Dormouse and Reptiles. In addition it was suggested that either the groups who undertook the surveys or the local Toadwatch Group might be invited to talk at the Annual Open Meeting in May. The ATC/RFO confirmed he would investigate these and ensure the appropriate groups are added to the invitation list for the meeting.

Councillor R J Lees asked for an update on the progress of setting up a Heritage Watch Group. The ATC/RFO confirmed that he had made attempts to chase both Historic England and KCC on this but had been unable to gain a response, a further email would be sent to chase up the process.

423/17-18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Recommended: That the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 10.00am.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 11.35 am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)

