

MINUTES of the MEETING of the HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE, on TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2018 at 10.00 AM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Bobby – FOSHP
Shirley Fahy - FOSHP
Martin Harding, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO

ABSENT: There were none

263/18-19. **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.

264/18-19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Ms L M Hall and R J Lees.

265/18-19. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Ms L M Cross substituted for Councillor Ms L M Hall.

266/18-19. **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.

267/18-19. **URGENT ITEMS / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

There were none.

268/18-19. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2018.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

269/18-19. **HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.**

The ATC/RFO gave a verbal update on ongoing work being undertaken for improvement to the Heritage Park.

Members were informed that a teleconference had been undertaken between the ATC/RFO, Historic England and North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NKCP) to discuss volunteer groups. It was felt that setting up a volunteer group for conservation, Heritage Watch and also an existing friends group may be counterproductive. The ATC/RFO would be sending an invitation to the Friends of Swanscombe Heritage Park asking that they come and discuss how these new volunteer initiatives could form part of the existing group. At present Historic England had provided £500 towards the creation of Heritage Watch and wanted to ask whether the Town Council would be in a position to match fund this to expand this wider volunteer group. The ATC/RFO confirmed that the Town Council had set aside £1,500 for small scale heritage improvements in the 2018 – 2019 budget. Members agreed that this would be an appropriate use of these funds.

The ATC/RFO confirmed that NKCP were progressing with the pond improvement project and work on the initial clearance phase was scheduled to be undertaken on 1, 8 and 22 November. Advertising had been sent out inviting any members of the public to volunteer on any of the days.

Historic England confirmed that they were producing the initial signage to mark historic or heritage assets within the Town and felt that this could be used to create a paper Heritage Trail. The ATC/RFO confirmed that undertaking this would be a beneficial trial to a full digital trail once funding had been secured.

The ATC/RFO confirmed that following his discussion with Bug Life, regarding the Heritage Park, they had conducted a minor survey of the site with recommendations for some improvements. The ATC/RFO confirmed he would circulate this to members for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Recommended:

1. That the ATC/RFO continue working on the current funding projects.
2. That £500 be used to match fund the money received from Historic England for the expansion of a local volunteer group.
3. That the ATC/RFO explore the possibility, with the support of Historic England, of a paper heritage trail within the Town.
4. That the ATC/RFO circulate the survey undertaken by Bug Life ahead of the next sub-committee meeting.

270/18-19. **FRIENDS OF SWANSCOMBE HERITAGE PARK (FOSHP) REPORT OF ACTIVITIES.**

Brenda Bobby provided an update that confirmed the Halloween Disco last week had been a huge success and was very well attended with the Town Mayor judging and presenting prizes to the children for the best 2 costumes. The next event would be the Easter Egg Hunt in 2019.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

271/18-19. **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.

272/18-19. **ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO HERITAGE.**

Members briefly discussed whether any updates had occurred regarding both the Chapel in Swanscombe Cemetery and Alkerden Farm. The Chairman confirmed that the Local History Group had made no further progress on a survey for the Chapel and that the last reported update regarding Alkerden was that Henley Camland intended to dismantle and relocate the original farm building when developing the site.

The Chairman updated members that the Local History Group had been invited to meet the archaeologists working on Springhead Bridge. The results of this meeting would be reported at the next sub-committee meeting.

273/18-19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Recommended: That the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 10.00am.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 10.30 am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)