

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP

27 June 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Hitchins (Chairman), Warren (Vice-Chairman), Ambler, Brooks, Buckland, Cates, Dingemans, Mrs Neno, Oliver-Redgate, Reynolds and Dr Walsh.

[Note: Councillor Dingemans was absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters detailed at Minutes 1 to 6 (part).]

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Bence, Mrs Daniells, English, Maconachie and Purchase.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government’s example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a Member declares a “Prejudicial Interest” this will, in the interest of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

Councillors Buckland and Dr Walsh declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda that related to Littlehampton as members of Littlehampton Town Council.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. LITTLEHAMPTON SIGNAGE

The Chairman agreed that this item could be dealt with as a matter of urgency as it was felt that action needed to be taken to resolve the issue.

A Member advised that he had received emails from local residents complaining that the East Bank walkway did not have adequate signage showing the way to the toilets and the Windmill complex and please could this be rectified. He also advised that a sub-contractor at the Windmill had confirmed that he would be willing to assist with the erection of any signs.

The matter was duly noted and passed to officers.

5. START TIMES

The Working Group

RESOLVED

That the start times of meetings for the remainder of 2017/18 be 6.00 p.m.

6. UPDATE ON LITTLEHAMPTON LEISURE CENTRE & ARUN LEISURE CENTRE

The Principal Landscape Officer presented this report which provided an update on the current progress of the new leisure centre project at Littlehampton and the refurbishment works at the Arun Leisure Centre.

Members were informed that:

- The Development Control Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2017 had discharged conditions 7 (surface water drainage), 8 (protection of public sewers) and 20 (level survey).
- The second application for the remaining conditions had been due to be considered at the July meeting of Development Control but that had been deferred to the meeting on 23 August due to consultation responses still being awaited.
- Work on the collapsed sewer had started.
- Demolition of the Sports Dome would be commencing in approximately two weeks.
- The tender process was now complete and Cabinet would be considering a report at its July meeting.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

- The “meet the buyer” event had been well attended and it was hoped that local businesses would be given the opportunity to be involved in the project
- An application for funding with Sport England had been submitted and the result of that would be announced in July.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Sussex were pleased with their involvement in the project and nearly all secondary schools had been represented at the meeting in May. It was anticipated that there would be opportunities for work experience; site visits; etc.
- Links had been established with HM Ford Prison and a more detailed report would be presented at a future meeting.

The Principal Landscape Officer advised that she was unable to show Members video clips that she had prepared due to the internet connection not working and she confirmed that she would send a link to Members to enable them to view them.

The Principal Landscape Officer was thanked for her update and, in the course of discussion, it was agreed that if there was information that would be relevant to the Parishes, this could be passed on to the relevant Clerk for dissemination via newsletters, etc.

The opportunity was also taken to provide Members with a brief Arun Leisure Centre Project update.

The Working Group noted the report.

7. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

In considering the Work Programme for 2017/18, Members raised concerns that environmental issues were not included, such as bathing water quality and water quality and the environment around the District’s lakes, parks and open spaces e.g. Mewsbrook and Brookfield.

Comment was made that Tourism was important to the economy of the District and the fact that there was only one full-time member of staff employed to deal with all aspects of that was something that needed to be reviewed.

A request was made that an interim report should be presented to the Working Group with regard to Litter and Dog Fouling as the full review would not be considered until the meeting on 19 December 2017. Members wished to be made aware of what areas were causing particular issues and the action being taken by the enforcement team.

The Working Group noted the report.

(The meeting concluded at 6.50 pm)