

HOWDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7:15pm, in the Town Council meeting room, 17 Bridgegate, Howden DN14 7AE.

Present: Councillors H Chiswell, R Drury (Chair), R Hart, D Howard, A Morris, H Roberts, C Thackray, A Wilson.

Also Attending: Angela Stone, Vic Smith

Clerk: Allison Wilson

Min 19-32 Declaration of interest

19-32.1 No interests were declared.

19-32.2 No dispensations were requested/granted.

Min 19-33 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2020 were approved as a true record.

Min 19-34 Christmas Fayre Weekend

The Chair welcome Angela Stone and Vic Smith to discuss improving on the already successful Late Night Opening Event. Angela and Vic, in their Promoting Howden roles wanted to give their time and potentially extend the late night opening, making it more of a Christmas "experience", perhaps over a full weekend. They felt that an awful lot of work went into a mad three hour event and all the organisers were wiped out at the end of it. Stall holders also felt that it would be more appealing if they had longer to sell their wares. Some of them travelled quite some distance to only be there for three hours.

The idea was to make it more exciting and a fuller experience, hopefully encouraging a lot more footfall into the Town and make the Market Place feel busier. Concern was expressed that the Traders wouldn't back the closing of the Market Place roads as the Town Council already had complaints every year regarding this. It was suggested by Cllr Drury that it might be better phasing in a longer weekend over a couple of years, hopefully with local businesses supporting this.

Angela had been looking at new themes, attractions and activities. Santa's grotto would be made into more of a mini Lapland experience from the moment the children walked it. A possibility would also be to bring a "pop-up" ice rink to encourage more children. The ice rink could come regardless of if a weekend road closure happened, especially if it could be put on the pocket park outside Groovy Moos. The schools could block book sessions and accessible sessions would be organized. The outlay cost would be substantial, but income from the sessions would go a long way to covering this. It was felt that this was a brilliant idea and should be looked into further.

After much discussion, the idea was agreed in principle, but a lot more work and breaking down of costings and working out the logistics would be needed. The Clerk would liaise with Angela and Vic regarding a working party for this.

Min 19-35 Derwent Park

Cllr Roberts reported that he, the Clerk and OHDB had met at Scuttlecroft Lane to discuss plans for access for the drainage board to their pumping station. The plan was that the metal barriers would be temporarily removed to allow for plant equipment access. Their path would be scraped and made good again, resurfaced and the barriers replaced. The Derwent Park arch and the small equipment at the entrance to Scuttlecroft Lane would be cited further down at the actual play park. Once works had been completed the OHDB would put a barrier to stop vehicles being able to drive right down to the pumping station.

Cllr Roberts reported that astroturf works were still to be completed but had been stopped due to bad weather.

Min 19-36 Marsh

19-36.1 A proposal had been received from Cllr Smythson for the Committee to consider creating a Friends of the Marsh group. More information was needed as it was unclear as to the remit of this type of group. Was it for volunteers or more for fundraising? This was agreed in principle and the Clerk was instructed to research this further.

19-36.2 Cllr Roberts reported that some tree felling and tree planting works would be undertaken as soon as possible.

19-36.3 The Clerk reported she was still chasing Rebecca Valentine for the draft letter regarding unauthorized access onto the Marsh. Rebecca had sent through a draft letter for the riparian

ownership but it was felt the letter was quite vague. Cllr Roberts volunteered to edit it accordingly to send back to ERYC Estates for them to send out.

Min 19-37 Litter Pick

The date for the litter pick is Saturday 22nd February at 10am until 12 noon, meeting at the Shire Hall. The Clerk had ordered litter grabbers and hoops for bin bags. It was difficult to allocate routes at this stage as it was unclear how many volunteers would actually turn up.

Min 19-38 Project Loo

The planning application had bounced back with some errors. Cllr Roberts had revisited the application and it had been resubmitted. Cllr Roberts reported that Cllr Pears had put in a request to update social media with an update on the project. Permission was granted.

Min 19-39 Health and Safety

The Clerk noted that it was much appreciated that Councillors went above and beyond their roles and volunteered to do jobs that would otherwise have to be done by contractors, thus incurring many more costs. Notwithstanding, she reported that Risk Assessments and Method Statements would need to be issued and signed for ALL tasks. An audit of tasks would be undertaken and RAMS would be written as part of an ongoing process for volunteers and staff who do the tasks to sign. Hi Viz jackets would be ordered for all Councillors who volunteer for these jobs.

Min 19-40 Date of next meeting

14 April 2020

The meeting closed at 8:38 pm.