

**SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting held at Champions Manor Hall
on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 5.30pm

Present:

Councillor K Bentley (in the Chair)

Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Thompson

Councillor Wilson
Councillor Lake

Councillor Shearring
Councillor Birch

In attendance: Town Clerk and Councillor O' Brien

E210 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Eley, Kelly and John

E211 Dispensation considerations

No dispensation considerations received

E212 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest received

E213 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

E214 Public Questions

Resident raised concerns regarding the on-going problems with the bus gate being used by motor vehicles . Resident asked what the implications would be of the closure of the bus gate and felt that with increased signage the problem could be mitigated. Councillor Wilson suggested that the resident contacts the Casualty Reduction Board to see whether measurers could be put in place.

Councillor Thompson proposes that the Hullbridge Road, bus gate item is moved forward, members agree.

E215 Hullbridge Road, Bus Gate

Members discussed the concerns raised by the resident and the correspondence received from Essex Highways with regard to the three options detailed within the correspondence: 1/ Detection camera not suitable due to the lack of traffic though the bus gate, 2/ Signage improvements: highways officer did not feel that any further improvements could be made and advised that the only option would be the closure of the bus gate. Members discussed the concerns and felt that additional signage improvements and options could be considered prior to considering the closure of the bus gate.

Proposal: Town Council to contact Casualty Reduction Board to discuss enforcement options or surveys that could be carried out, to install the word 'only' under the bus and cycle sign so it is clear for motorists, consider additional signage in the surrounding area, no right turn signage

on Ferrers Road and increased signage on the section of Hullbridge Road from the Albert Road junction.

Proposed: Councillor Wilson

Seconded: Councillor Thompson

Vote: Carried

E216 Budgetary Position

The current budgetary position as at 30th June 2021 as attached to the agenda was noted

E217 Garden Of Remembrance

Covid Memorial	<p>Members discussed that a high profile event would not be appropriate and that something low key would be more fitting.</p> <p>Proposal: photo of the memorial to be taken and published within the Focus and Facebook page to inform residents that there is a location where they can reflect and remember their loved ones</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Birch Seconded: Councillor Humphrey Vote: Carried</p>
Pergola	<p>Members discussed the positive comments received from residents since the pergola has been removed stating that this opens up the area and highlights the decorative youth wall. The item of lack of memorials to be discussed later in the meeting was incorporated within this topic due to its relevance.</p> <p>Proposal: Not to proceed with a pergola, provide miniature trees to ensure the open feel of the area and obtain prices for rose beds , this will increase the memorial options available for residents. Officers permitted to arrange planting of trees once weather permits.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Bentley Seconded: Councillor Birch Vote: Carried</p>
Jubilee Tree Planting -	<p>Proposal: to decline the offer of the tree from Paul Kings for the Garden of Remembrance. Town Council to consider Jubilee options at a future meeting</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Thompson Seconded: Councillor Shearring Vote: Carried</p>
Tree Memorials	Item covered under pergola item

E218 Dog Fouling Signs

Proposal: ESO's to erect dog fouling signs on appropriate areas within the Town. Awareness to be raised on social media

Proposed: Councillor Bentley

Seconded: Councillor Thompson

Vote: Carried

E219 Creekview Green

Following the concerns raised by residents and Councillors with regard to the new trees on the Creekview Green, correspondence has been received from Paul Van Damme stating that a community volunteering aftercare day has been organised at Creekview where our staff and volunteers will be tending to the Creekview tree planting areas the wood chips in the area is a mulching materials which will be placed around the smaller trees to provide a weed suppressant mulch. The planation is intended to have herbal undergrowth layer, which can be misinterpreted as overgrown, this is part of the naturalising of the planation providing habitat for insects, pollinators, bees and other wildlife.

Proposal: Town Council to write to Chelmsford City Council to raise the following points: request that the footpaths are reinstated and the 2 points of access to the river are cleared; communication channels as this would have enabled the Town Council improve to help promote the volunteering days and request that a long term plan is made available about the future of the area developed by horticulture experts.

Proposed: Councillor Thomson

Seconded: Councillor Bentley

Vote: Carried

E220 Crisp Recycling

Following the lifting of lockdown the crisp recycling scheme collection point will resume at Champions Manor Hall, members considered three charities: Animal hospital, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Mayors Charity Young Minds. Members voted to proceed with Young Minds for the 2021/22 financial year.

E221 River Crouch Costal Community Steering Group

An update was provided by Councillor Shearring detailing that Crouch Harbour Authority are promoting water safety and the dangers of the water. Crouch Harbour Authority are suggesting that Parish / Town Councils take responsibility of water safety, it is anticipated that the Crouch Harbour Authority will write to the Town Clerk regarding this. A bridleway / footpath is being considered along the disused railway line, Councillor Shearring advised the group that due to the development communication should be made quickly with the developers. Councillor Shearring is due to have a meeting with Helen Quinell in the near future to discuss signage at the riverfront and surrounding area.

E222 Report from Fenn Warden

Report from Fenn Warden June 21 detailed below, it is anticipated that the Warden will attend the next meeting:

So far this year Essex Wildlife Trust has carried out tree safety work on a poplar tree and some path clearance.

A grazier had been lined up to put some cattle on the Fenn but unfortunately had to pull out because of operational difficulties, Essex Wildlife Trust are now liaising with their livestock officer to try to find some animals to graze the fenced area of upper salt marsh.

In the role as volunteer warden regular patrols of the reserve are carried out to monitor the environment a butterfly survey and grassland survey will be carried out in the near future. Several reptile mats have proved very successful with slow worms. There has been sightings of water voles and Kingfishers. Orchids and deer have been seen in the John Cox area.

E223 Public Toilets

Request that Open Spaces Officer contacts Chelmsford City Council to ask whether there is a plan for toilets to be provided in the Town and a separate communication to be sent to the Taxi Company regarding the toilets at the railway. Future agenda item

E224 Litter Bins

Communication to be made with the City Council to request that enclosed top bins are provided to deter birds taking rubbish from the bin and leaving over the floor.

E225 Chelmsford iMAC Group

A verbal update was provided by Councillor Bentley, Army and Navy consultation is due in the near future where 2 options will be available for comment. Essex County Council are due to produce their 'Bus back better' strategy, enhanced partnership working must be implemented with local bus companies. Central government funding is available if completed within the time scale. E scooter trial is progressing well with 10,000 individual users using the scheme since it started. For clarification Councillor Bentley reported that iMAC is a group that discusses movement around the City of Chelmsford.

E226 Clime and Ecological Emergency Focus Group

Councillor Bentley reported that the Climate and Ecological Toolkit and Introduction letter has been produced, other than some slight graphic amendments this document is ready for publication in E form. It is anticipated that some of the 'quick fixes' detailed could be introduced in the focus column if space allows. Thanks expressed to Councillor Birch's son who produced the hedgehog design for the front cover. It is anticipated that this is a fluid document so amendments may be made as the year progress.

Proposal: To circulate the Climate and Ecological toolkit in E form
Proposed: Councillor Bentley
Seconded: Councillor Thompson
Vote: Carried

E227 Essex Forest Initiative – Planting 2021/22

Members agree to decline the offer at this time until and reconsidered at a later time when there is a clear plan for the John Cox area.

E228 Working Schedule

Working schedule as attached to the agenda was noted.

E229 Report to Council

Committee agree to report the following:

- Garden of Remembrance (pergola, memorials)
- Dog waste signs
- Climate and Ecological Focus Group Toolkit
- Crisp Recycling Scheme

E230 Media Coverage

Re-opening of the Crisp Scheme
Dog Waste campaign

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:30pm.

Signed.....

Date: 21st July 2021

Chairman of the Meeting