

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

MINUTES of a meeting held at Champions Manor Hall
on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor K Bentley (Chairman)
Councillor D Eley (Vice Chair)

Councillor Humphrey

Councillor Birch
Councillor Kelly

Councillor Shearring

In attendance: Town Clerk, Open Spaces Officer

E268 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Lobar, Lake, Wilson, John & Thompson.

E269 Dispensation considerations

No dispensation considerations received.

E270 Declarations of interest

No declared an interest received.

E271 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

E272 Public Questions

No members of the public present.

E273 Budgetary Position

The current budgetary position as at 31st December 2021 as attached to the agenda was noted.

Proposal: To move underspend money from the Hanging Baskets and Roundabout Sponsorship budget to cover overspend on Tree works and to decide later in the year where to move the remaining amount.

Proposed: Councillor Bentley

Seconded: Councillor Birch

Vote: Carried

E274 Hanging Basket & Planter Displays

- Committee **AGREED** this year's planters will be in Jubilee theme of red, white, dark purple and silver. The planters will remain at their present locations.
- Committee **AGREED** that the Rotary can plant three concrete planters in Town in March 22. This will be included in the Town Council weekly watering contract which begins when the Towns hanging Baskets and planters are in place the summer. Feedback to the Rotary on the conditions on watering before our contract

begins, information on planting and the colour scheme selected and the media coverage.

E275 The Fenn

- A proposed Action Plan Meeting before April 22 with Essex Wildlife Trust was **NOTED**
- Committee discussed the perimeter fence around the Fenn. It was agreed this was at the age of needing maintenance and concerns were expressed regarding removing the boundary fencing and leaving the site as open access.

Proposal: The Open Spaces Officer to arrange a site visit with members to look at the areas need and consider repairs.

Proposed: Councillor Bentley

Seconded: Councillor Eley

Vote: Carried

E276 Trees on Ferrers Road

It was **AGREED** to defer this item to the next meeting when the two White Poplar trees have been removed along Ferrers Road due to a Health & Safety risk in late January 2022.

E277 Safer Essex Roads

Following on from the launch of the Vision Zero Strategy document on 14/9/21 the reply from Essex COUNTY Council Highways was **NOTED**. Committee **NOTED** that a consultation with schools and residents to reduce the speed in school zones to 20mph will start over the next months.

E278 Eyotts Sea Wall Breach

The update from Councillor Massey Essex County Council attached to the Environment Agenda was **NOTED**.

E279 Town Signage

Committee discussed the repositioning or replacement of the Town sign at Millennium Place and new signage at the two gateways to the entrance of the Town.

Proposal: The Town Council to organise a Town competition for all residents in South Woodham Ferrers.

- To design a new Town sign, keeping the present shield shape.
- To ask residents what location they would like the sign to be placed. The Committee will decide the winner and agree the location after April 2022.

Proposed: Councillor Shearring

Seconded: Councillor Humphrey

Vote: Carried

Proposal: The Open Spaces Officer to liaise with Essex County Council Highways and make enquiries regarding placing new baskets and signage on the two Gateways in Town.

Proposed: Councillor Bentley

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: Carried

E280 Greater Anglian Reduced Train Service

It was **AGREED** the Open Spaces Officer to correspond with Greater Anglian on the decision of the new timetable and how it effects the residents of South Woodham Ferrers. Correspondence to include MP John Whittingdale.

E281 Climate & Ecological Emergency Focus Group

Councillor Bentley provided a verbal update of the last meeting on the 17th January 2022. A presentation was given by Marc Outten from Essex Wildlife Trust.

EWT to visit the wider South Woodham Open spaces to advise on management for insects (as part of the Wildlife Trust Action for Insects work

Enquire into whether EWT have any river water quality data for SW and the Crouch

Think about new interpretation for the Fenn with a new focus and up-to-date wildlife information

Get the EWT team to provide more information on what can be seen at the Fenn (pictures, information, stories, etc)

Councillor Bentley updated on letters being sent to the schools re using the Toolkit and Councillor Shearring updated on the work with the Marsh Farm Volunteers and coppicing/pruning of the apple trees at the Orchard.

E282 Working Schedule

Working schedule as attached to the agenda was noted.

E283 Report to Council

Committee agree to report the following:

Town Sign competition

Jubilee Planters

E284 Media Coverage

The Town Sign competition judged after April 2022.

E285 Next Meeting

The next meeting date is 16th February 2022.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.16pm.

Signed.....

Date: 16th February 2022

Chairman of the Meeting