

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ASSETS, FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021 AT 10AM**

PRESENT	Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman) Councillor Julie Baker Councillor Peter Banks Councillor Dave Bragg Councillor Carl Powling Councillor Sylvia Wargent Councillor Sophie Weaver
IN ATTENDANCE	Petra Palfreyman Vanessa Allen (Town Clerk)

1 member of the public was present with an interest in Feldy View permissive footpath.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL (CORONAVIRUS ACT Part 2020 1 Section 78 Regulations 2 – 17)

**21/016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillor Akker.

**21/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Powling declared a pecuniary interest in item 21/024.

**21/018 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2021 AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda and in the task tracker.

**21/019 TO REVIEW THE TASK TRACKER**

All items on the Tracker were reviewed – Councillor Jenkins to up-date and circulate.

**21/020 TO REVIEW AND AGREE NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE SKATE PARK**

It was agreed we should replace the current signage with an up-dated version at a cost not exceeding £500.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Banks. ALL IN FAVOUR.

**21/021 TO DECIDE ON A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONTROL OF ALEXANDERS ON WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL LAND AND TO AGREE A BUDGET**

The committee was in agreement that the alexanders need to be controlled. The plants are annuals but the seeds stay in the ground for 5 years so the only way to control them is to cut them back three times during the growing season (advice given by the Environment Agency). It was agreed that alexanders in West Mersea Park and the Glebe should be cut back accordingly.

Willoughby would have to be left as frogs and toads inhabit the field. Town Clerk to obtain costs for this work to be undertaken by either Skippers or Mersea Mowers. Once costs established a decision to proceed (or not) to be agreed. There is some urgency. All were in favour of this approach.

21/022 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF LAND DRAINS ARE REQUIRED IN THE YOUTH FIELD AND TO ASSESS IF REPAIRS TO THE 'BRIDGE' FROM THE YOUTH FIELD TO SCHOOL GARDENS WOULD BE REQUIRED

It was agreed that rather than land drains we should plant in the Autumn a number of willows (possibly "weeping" variety) to help soak up the excess water; Councillor Jenkins to arrange.

In respect of the "bridge" Councillor Powling to obtain quotes to either resurface or demolish and replace with a "timber" structure.

Both costs are covered by Budget provisions.

21/023 TO DECIDE IF WE SHOULD ORDER ONE OR MORE COMPACTER BINS

It was agreed that we would order three bins to be located in Seaview car park (existing trial bin), one for boardwalk area and one for the top of the Monkey Steps.

Formal quote to follow from British Bins Ltd but prices understood to be £4,350 each including 5 year software support and 5 year warranty. Concrete bases needed for Monkey Beach area – Councillor Jenkins to arrange. Cost to be taken from reserves. (NB quote received for comparable product from BigBelly but at considerably higher prices).

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

21/024 TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE INROOF SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM FOR MELROSE ROAD OFFICES

It was agreed to proceed with an inroof solar panel system from EFS at a cost of £4,000. Councillor Powling to liaise with Leon Taylor who is currently re-roofing the building. Cost to be part funded from Budget provisions and part from reserves.

Town Clerk requested alternative quotes be obtained if possible. If this proves difficult, given the market place conditions, then the Council is resolved to run with EFS quote as time is of the essence if the more economical inroof system is to be installed whilst roofing tiles being replaced.

Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

21/025 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

This to be decided after review of committee structure.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.45.

Minutes prepared by Councillor Jenkins (verified by Town Clerk)