

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **FACILITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Doniert Room of The Liskerrett Centre on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7.30 pm there were present:

Councillor Julian Smith (Vice Chair).

Committee Members – The Mayor Christina Whitty (Ex Officio) The Deputy Mayor David Ambler (Ex Officio), Councillors' Sally Hawken and Anna Clarke.

Facilities Manager - Tony Misson

Members of Public – A Bennallick and four representatives from the Pengover Allotments – D Turner, V Reynolds, T Hayes and J Ede

Councillor Smith advised those present of Housekeeping matters.

198/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors' I Goldsworthy, T Powell, J Pascoe and S Cassidy.

Apologies were also received from Pengover Plot Holders M Evans and D Dennison.

199/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BOTH REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE

Councillor Ambler noted a friendship with M Evans – agenda item 11, Correspondence.

200/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2018

Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Ambler seconded, and the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on the 17 July 2018.

201/18 PRESENTATION OF THE PENGOVER ALLOTMENTS PRIZE WINNERS 2018

The Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty was pleased to present the Cup for Best Allotment Plot to Derek Turner of plot M2 and for Best Raised Beds to John Ede of plot A4.

202/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Derek Turner, Chair of the Allotments Association, thanked the Committee and the Facilities Manager for their continued support of the allotments and Tessa Hayes commented on the beneficial effects of allotment gardening and also thanked the Town Council.

Annett Bennallick had attended regarding agenda item 7, Seagull Working Group, and emphasised her concerns over issues around seagull noise and the management of rubbish and litter.

203/18 FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT

The Facilities Manager's report to 18th September 2018, as presented, was noted by the Committee. Councillor Hawken added to the update on the item regarding the proposed sharps bin at Sungirt Toilets, which was still in progress.

204/18 TO APPROVE FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEAGULL WORKING GROUP REPORT DATED 29th AUGUST 2018 AND THE ASSOCIATED BUDGET PROPOSALS

During this item Mr Peter Rock, an expert on seagull behaviour, joined the meeting via a video call to answer any technical questions that may arise.

Councillor Ambler outlined the Seagull report as presented and the Committee, assisted by Mr Rock, discussed the various issues and effectiveness of any actions that might mitigate the nuisance caused by seagulls to some residents of the town.

Councillor Smith then went through the five key recommendations of the report in more detail with further questions answered by Mr Rock.

Councillors' Smith and Ambler thanked Mr Rock for his time and valuable input to the meeting.

Councillor Hawken expressed concerns over the suggestion in recommendation 4 regarding moderation of street lighting and requested the removal of that section of wording.

The amended five key recommendations were then agreed as:

1. **COMMUNICATION** - To undertake regular communication with the residents and businesses of Liskeard to promote a "living with gulls' message"; encouraging everyone to manage their waste, not to feed and how to deal with swooping gulls and other nuisances. To also include seasonal messages to encourage clearing old nest sites and to establish links with other and neighbouring councils, such as Looe and Polperro, to share these messages, promote a joint engagement programme in the media and avoid duplication of promotional material. To further include provision of more Seagull notices in the town reminding people to feed the bins not the gulls and similar messages. A budget for 2019 of £500 is recommended.
2. **DETERRENCE** - Make contact with Liskeard businesses and any other organisations with large roofs and known gull nesting sites, requesting them to gull proof, clean and remove old nests.
3. **CLEAN UP** - Work with Cornwall Council and Biffa to increase co-operation and improve management and enforcement of waste and litter regulations including the installation of gull proof bins where required. A budget for 2019 of £2000 is recommended.
4. **NOISE** - Investigate ways to reduce night-time gull noise during key periods of the year.
5. **OUTCOMES** - Undertake a study in 3 years to determine the effectiveness of the above measures.

Councillor Ambler proposed, Councillor Clarke seconded and the Committee **APPROVED** the five key recommendations of the Seagull Working Group as detailed above.

Councillor Hawken stated that the reference on page 5 of the Seagull Working Group report (August 2018) regarding the budget allocation of £1500 for seagull control measures had not subsequently been formally allocated to the Seagull Report and Survey and this was thus an inaccurate record and she did not wish to be associated with the expenditure.

205/18 BUDGET REPORT TO 31st AUGUST 2018

The Facilities Committee budget report to 31st August 2018 was noted by the Committee.

206/18 TO APPROVE THE USE OF CONTRACTOR A FOR THE TREE MANAGEMENT WORK AT THORN PARK.

Two quotations had been received for work on trees and a section of hedge at Thorn Park, as identified in our Tree Management Plan. Councillor Hawken questioned the large differential between the two prices quoted and sought reassurance as to the competency of the recommended contractor. This was confirmed by the Facilities Manager.

Councillor Ambler proposed, Councillor Clarke seconded, and the Committee **APPROVED** contractor A to carry out the tree management works at Thorn Park.

207/18 BUDGET SETTING 2019/2020 – PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS

The Committee discussed the progress of the items contained within the Facilities Committee Five Year Financial Plan and considered new items that could be given consideration.

Councillor Ambler outlined ideas for providing outdoor drinking fountains and he would be bringing further information to the Committee in due course.

Councillor Clarke discussed the promotion of the new Public Hall facilities and measures to increase its usage. The Committee suggested that this item should be referred to the Communications and Engagement Committee via the next Chairs meeting.

Councillor Hawken suggested a review of the Guildhall building and also the condition and provision of our street furniture.

208/18 CORRESPONDENCE

An email had been received from Pengover Allotments plot holder Megan Evans with reference to her involvement with the SAS Plastic Free Liskeard Campaign, wishing to explore options to reduce single use plastics used on the allotments.

This item was discussed and the Committee requested that the Facilities Manager liaise with Mrs Evans and the Allotments Association.

209/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Facilities Committee meeting was to be 20 November 2018 at 7.30 PM - venue to be confirmed subject to the Public Hall refurbishment.