

MINUTES OF THE FAVERSHAM PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Thursday 25 July 2019

Present

Cllr E Thomas (Chair)	Cllr C Williams	Cllr J Saunders
	A Peters (SBC)	A Blackburn (KCC)

In attendance

L Bareham	A Andrews
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11. Apologies for absence

Cllr K Barker	M Knowles (SBC)	Cllr J Irwin
Cllr H Perkin		

12. Declarations of Interest

None

13. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Revised terms of reference are awaited from Cllr Irwin. In the meantime, Cllr Saunders proposed the existing terms of reference be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Thomas. On being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to adopt the existing Terms of Reference for the Committee***

The Clerk confirmed she was looking into how the Town Council can best consider a neighbourhood plan.

14. Co-option of Non-Councillors

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED that Mr C Oswald-Jones and Mr G Reeves be co-opted to the Public Spaces Committee***

15. Highways Improvement Plan

A lengthy discussion took place to understand the best reporting mechanism. There is a need to understand what items are appropriate for the HIP and what should be reported as faults on the website. Faults should still be reported online, together with requests for dropped kerbs for example, but additional items such as crossings should be included on the HIP. There are three levels – improvements which are part of the KCC plan, proposals funded by KCC Members' grants, items the Town Council could fund, which meet KCC's safety check criteria.

It was recommended that the Healthy Streets criteria are used as a context to make decisions and set a rationale and to focus on people rather than vehicles, using the indicators as evidence. It was noted that walking and cycling didn't come under the crash statistics.

It was agreed that the Highways Improvement Plan would be a good method of structuring a hierarchy of priorities.

It was noted that the Climate and Biodiversity Committee is also considering walking and cycling and a joint walkabout was suggested.

16. Walkabouts

Cllr Thomas suggested the group focused on the town gateways – Love Lane/Graveney, The Mall, Railway Station, Ospringe Road, The Creek. Together with green spaces and amenities.

Cllr Williams suggested estates, such as Millfield, often got overlooked and that perhaps estates in general should also be prioritised.

Some councillors had already undertaken walkabouts in their own wards and highlighted issues. It was suggested that preliminary work be undertaken by ward members who would recommend what committee members should focus on. It was agreed that the next walkabout would be in St Ann's including the gateway of Bysingwood/WFCC on 12th September.

In the meantime councillors were to continue reporting issues to KCC and SBC.

17. Disabled Access

Cllr Saunders reported the lack of dropped kerbs, which had been highlighted to him by a resident who used a disabled scooter. KCC does have a small budget but the dropped kerbs must benefit more than a couple of people to maximise effectiveness, ie a well-used route to shops.

Cllr Williams highlighted an issue with wheelchair user who could not access some of the footpaths around Abbey Ward as they were obstructed by anti-bike posts. It was agreed to check whether motorcycles were still an issue in the areas and to remove the posts.

18. Bike Racks

Cllr Saunders confirmed there were bike racks on the Jubilee Estate but they were well hidden. He thought more were required at the Arden Theatre and Swimming Pool. The Town Caretaker reported on locations where bike racks had recently been installed. Funding had been received for 15 racks. It was agreed that the railway had plenty at the rear of the station.

A discussion took place on how to signpost the racks so cyclists would know where they were. This could be included on the town map and information boards.

19. Healthy Street Indicators

It was agreed to consider the indicators in more detail at the next meeting, and particularly when deciding priorities for the HIP and in general terms when items of the public realm are repaired ensuring these are high quality and like for like.

20. Any Other Business

Cllr Williams would like to see more verges used to increase biodiversity by growing wildflowers. However, he was mindful of the need for information and education and perhaps signage.