

Public Spaces Working Group Minutes

23rd September, 9:30am

Attendees:

Cllr Thomas
Cllr Hook

Cllr Perkin
Cllr Saunders

Cllr Reynolds
A Andrews
C Oswald-Jones

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham

128. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Williams and Alan Blackburn (KCC).

129. Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

130. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Cllr Thomas **updated item 122 - the Queens Hall Car Park**, from the previous minutes. Swale Borough Council have approved funding for this project, and he is to meet with the contractor on Friday 24th of September 2021 to discuss the quote sent through.

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Public Spaces Group dated 22nd July 2021**

131. Benches

Adam Andrews confirmed that Swale Borough Council have planned to complete further restoration on benches around town and the bench audit was noted. Four serpentine benches are being refurbished and were expected to be in situ by the end of the October.

Cllr Saunders has been lobbied by residents of his ward about having more benches around town.

ACTION – In a future meeting this is to be discussed. Request for all ward members to feed back where they think benches should be installed to maximise accessibility via the Town Clerk.

132. Tree Planting

The Town Clerk confirmed an order had been placed for trees for Tree Week, to be delivered on Wednesday 1st December.

Adam provided an update on the diseased trees at Stonebridge, he had attained a quote to have them felled and was organizing road closures with KCC. The felling of the trees will be communicated via social media to avoid any adverse comments.

Concerns were noted regarding trees in The Knole which were on private land. Cllr Saunders had already written to the landowner's representatives, but it was agreed that the Town Council should also write.

133. Cycle Racks

Cllr Reynolds noted that more cyclists are coming in and leaning their bikes against shop fronts and the town pump. Adam is meeting with Alan Blackburn to discuss further locations for cycle racks.

Cllr Saunders agreed there is an issue with people not being able to park their bikes in town centre and also raised the issue of lack of cycle racks on private land. He noted at the Area Committee it had been agreed that grant funding should be used to benefit active travel.

Cllr Thomas suggested maybe painting the racks green so that they stand out. Adam to trial painting of a cycle rack to see if this would be worth pursuing once a suitable colour has been selected.

134 Tikpaks

Adam reminded us of the location of the four Tikpaks – one at St Anne's, one at South Road, one at Abbey Street and one at the Front Brents.

Cllr Perkin suggested one put at the start of the Creek walk.

It was agreed to move the Tikpak from the Front Brents and re-site at far end of Upper Brents, near the start of the footpath along the creek towards Oare. It was suggested that Adam liaised with Cllr Jackson, as a regular dog walker, to consider other locations.

135. Planters

The planter on Forbes Road is thriving, while others are not. Cllr Thomas suggested that Adam move the planters away from the wall at the Station and Stone Street to help them thrive.

It was agreed to consider whether more planters would be beneficial while out and about in town and feed this back in the next committee meeting.

The Town Clerk and Facilities Manager will liaise on the future maintenance of planters.

136. Town Signs

Adam confirmed the four town entry signs would be removed on 4th October and delivered to Clive Sherwood for refurbishment. This is expected to take a couple of weeks and then will be returned. It was agreed to ensure that this was communicated via social media.

137. Sheerways

Cllr Hook explained that Sheerways is a cul de sac off Ospringe Street, there is a big green there that is maintained by Swale. The issues there are:

- A pavement with craters that desperately needs resurfacing, the responsibility of KCC.
- A house with several cars blocking the pavement. If KCC were to adopt this piece of the road then a yellow line could be put down and they could be ticketed. Potentially bollards could be put in.
- Triangular shaped piece of green land that isn't maintained as it should be, potentially an opportunity for a wild space for pollinators.

No particular action required from this meeting; Cllr Hook will discuss with relevant people separately.

In Ospringe Street, people have knocked holes in walls to make garden gates. There is an issue with dog fouling where some people are running a dog-related business from their garden.

Cllr Perkin left the meeting and gave her apologies.

138. Highway Issues

As Alan Blackburn had sent apologies Cllr Thomas would raise the issues noted with him direct.

139. Faversham's HIP

Cllr Saunders questioned how the HIP would sit with the LCWIP, noting the two active travel bids put forward by KCC. Swale Rail Users' Group had also raised concerns regarding the X4, which was being so well used, people were having to stand. A request had been made for a double decker to be run, but due to the Forbes Road railway bridge cannot. It was decided that lowering Forbes Road would be impractical and to advise the Rail Users' Group of the X3 bus which goes to the same destination using a different route.

It was agreed Cllr Thomas would email Stagecoach to see if they monitor user numbers and if they plan to introduce further buses to relieve the stress on the existing one.

140. Any Other Business

Chris Oswald-Jones brought up the lack of adequate signage in Faversham station. Visitors to the town were often seen coming out of the southern exit

and not knowing where to go. Cllr Thomas to forward the photographs to the relevant officer at Swale Borough Council to try and get this resolved. As this was a tourism issue, it was agreed that the Town Council could also consider attending to this matter.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 25th November, 9.30am