

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

LIGHTING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Meeting held on 7 February 2008

PRESENT: Councillors T Field (Chairman), A Akbar, Mrs F Harrison, Mrs S Lines and D Murphy

1/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Perry (Work Commitment) and Warrington (Personal Commitment). These apologies were accepted by the Committee.

2/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded by Members.

3/08 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4/08 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

(a) Situation Report/Monthly Inspections

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/07(a) and reported that the programme of regular inspections was continuing. She said that the standard of cleansing was most satisfactory, as had been the case since the commencement of the new enhanced Contract on 1 April 2007. She said that she had not received any complaints from service users since the last Meeting of the Committee.

She also referred to problems that were being encountered at The Street toilets, where undesirable individuals were writing obscene messages in the gentlemen's toilets and generally causing damage to the cubicle doors. She said that the Police were aware of these problems and were actively working in an effort to stop this unsocial behaviour. She confirmed that the Council's Cleansing and Maintenance Contractor was also working in partnership with the Police in this regard.

The Committee NOTED this information.

(b) Broadmark Lane

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/07(c) and reported that now the Council owned the land on which the mobile toilet unit was sited, some minor fencing works were planned during the next financial year to improve and enclose the area of waste ground to the rear and to the north side of the unit, and generally improve the aesthetic appearance of these toilets.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

(c) The Street - Proposed Refurbishment

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/07(d) and reported that the Architect and Contractor currently carrying out the renovation works at Church Farm Cottage had been asked to prepare plans and estimated costings for a complete refurbishment of these toilets, to the same standard as those at Churchill Car Park.

She said that as soon as these were received they would be placed on the full Council Agenda for consideration and subsequent approval.

The Committee NOTED this information.

(d) Woodlands Centre - Refurbishment

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/07(e) and reported that, no further action would be taken in respect of the proposed refurbishment of these toilets, pending the receipt of costings for The Street toilets.

The Committee NOTED this information.

(e) Loo of the Year Awards 2007

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/07(f) and reminded the Committee that the Churchill Car Park toilets had, once again, been awarded a 4 Star Grading in the Competition, with the Broadmark Lane toilets achieving a 3 Star Grading. She said that she had now received the Summary Reports relating to both of the entries which contained comments on ways in which the grades could be improved. She confirmed that she would be considering these Reports, in consultation with the Council's Cleansing Contractor, to implement the suggested improvements, if practicably and economically possible.

The Committee NOTED this information.

5/08 BUS SHELTERS AND BEACH SHELTER

(a) Situation Report

The Clerk reminded the Committee that the recent refurbishment of the Beach Shelter had certainly made a marked improvement. She said that due to its vulnerable position on the seafront, general redecoration and maintenance works would need to be undertaken on a regular basis, and this would continue throughout the next financial year.

The Committee NOTED this information.

(b) Cleansing - Progress Report

The Clerk referred to Minute 26/07(b) and reported that the extra cleansing of the Beach Shelter, in addition to that carried out by Verdant on behalf of the District Council, was continuing to be undertaken by the Council's Cleansing Contractor on a regular basis.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

(c) Refurbishment/Replacement of Bus Shelters

The Clerk referred to Minute 26/07(c) and reported that the replacement Shelter located in Sea Lane (east side) had been installed.

She then advised Members that she had recently received notification from the West Sussex County Council that grant funding of 50% would once again be available for a limited number of applicants in the next financial year. She said that an application to replace the Shelter on the east side of North Lane would be being submitted to the County Council, and she was again hopeful that the Council might be successful with its sixth application under this Scheme.

She reminded the Committee that the programme of refurbishment of the Council's Wooden Bus Shelters throughout the Village would continue, once funding became available in the next financial year.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

(d) Provision of Additional Bus Shelter - Station Road

The Clerk referred to Minute 26/07(d) and said that she would, during the next few months, be making enquiries with the County Council, regarding the possibility of obtaining a Licence to install a Shelter in front of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Station Road, should the Council decide to make the necessary financial provision in its 2009/2010 Estimates later in the year.

The Committee NOTED this information.

6/08 PUBLIC SEATS

(a) Situation Report

The Clerk referred to Minute 27/07(a) and reported that the programme of refurbishment would recommence at the beginning of the next financial year. She said that only urgent repairs were being undertaken at the present time.

The Committee NOTED this information.

(b) Provision of Additional/Replacement Seats

The Clerk reported that a donated seat located on the east side of Ash Lane had recently been stolen. She said the theft had been reported to the Police, and the replacement of this seat was currently the subject of an Insurance Claim.

The Committee NOTED this information.

7/08 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF AMENITY AREAS

(a) Situation Report

The Clerk referred to Minute 336/07 (Special Council Meeting - 17 December 2007 refers), and reminded Members that a one year Contract had been awarded to Ferring Nurseries with effect from 1 April 2008. She also reminded the Committee that it had been agreed that she should produce a more detailed specification, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Lighting and Amenities Committee and the Chairman of the Leisure and Recreation Committee, when the Tendering process was undertaken again later in the year, with more Companies being invited to Tender at that time.

The Clerk then referred to Minute 28/07(a) and said that complimentary comments had again been received from members of the public in respect of the Winter floral displays around the Village, with no adverse comments to date.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

(b) Future Floral Enhancement of other areas in the Village

The Clerk referred to Minute 15/08(a) (Full Council Meeting - 28 January refers) and reminded the Committee that reference had been made to possible future enhancements in other areas of the Village.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Chairman and the Clerk should meet with Ferring Nurseries to discuss possible areas which would benefit from enhancement, and report back to the Committee at the next Meeting.

8/08 POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN RUSTINGTON

The Clerk referred to Minute 25/08 (Full Council Meeting - 28 January 2008 refers) and reminded the Committee of the Chairman of the Council's report on a Meeting he had attended with Councillor Tyler, herself and the Community Parks Officer and Senior Legal Officer from the Arun District Council in this regard.

She said that the Meeting had been convened to discuss several small areas of land in and around the Allangate Estate that were currently not in the ownership of any operating Authority or Company and were, therefore, not being maintained on a regular basis. The District Council were exploring the possibility of either working in partnership with the Parish Council, or even the Parish Council alone, assuming responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of these areas.

She said that the District Council had agreed to try to establish the legal position in respect of ownership and the implication of assuming any such responsibility and, until such time as this information was to hand, no further action would be taken in this regard.

The Committee NOTED this information.

9/08 DOG BINS/LITTER BINS

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/07 and said that she had previously circulated copies of correspondence with the Arun District Council confirming that the Council would be prepared to meet the costs of the purchase of three additional litters bins at the following locations:-

Hobbs Way - North side by Public Seat, near its junction with Sea Lane
Station Road - West Side, between Station Parade and Sheepfold Avenue
Greensward - At the end of Public Footpath No. 3560

She said that these bins, once installed, would be serviced and maintained by the Arun District Council.

The Committee NOTED this information.

10/08 RUSTINGTON-IN-BLOOM

(a) Progress Report

The Clerk reminded the Committee that the In-Bloom Committee was progressing well with its preparations for the Village's entry into both the Britain in Bloom and South and South East in Bloom Competitions.

She said that the major permanent landscaping project in Ash Lane to replace the majority of the overgrown and diseased shrubs and trees was already underway, with members of the Youth Offending Team and The Oak Community Project carrying out the clearance works. She said that The Oak Community Project would also be assisting Ferring Nurseries with the new planting.

She then referred to the proposed floral enhancement of the roundabout in Mill Lane. She said that both Ferring Nurseries and The Windmill Inn had indicated that they would be happy to make financial contributions towards the costs of the enhancement, and the County Council had agreed that signage acknowledging these contributions could be sited on the roundabout, subject to its agreement in respect of design, size and colour scheme.

She advised the Committee that the Britain in Bloom judges would be carrying out unannounced judging across the Country from 12 April to 4 May, with the main judging period taking place between 4 and 15 August. The South and South East in Bloom judging period would be between 30 June and 11 July. She said that as much support as possible would be required, particularly as there would be two separate judging days this year.

Once again several fund-raising events are planned, including:-

Friday 18 April 2008 - A "Catwalk Connections" Fashion Show at The Woodlands Centre

Saturday 24 May 2008 - Plant Stall, Methodist Church Gardens

Saturday 7 June 2008 - Grand Tombola Stall at the Rustington Carnival

(b) Additional Raised Flower Bed (south side of The Street at junction with Broadmark Lane)

The Clerk referred to Minute 32/07(b) and reported that the Rustington Residents Association had now placed their order with Ferring Nurseries for an additional raised flower bed to be constructed on the south side of The Street at its junction with Broadmark Lane. She said that the Residents Association would be bearing the costs for the construction of the planter and the floral displays for 2008.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

11/08 PARKING ON GRASS VERGES

Councillor Mrs Harrison referred to a representation she had received at the recent Councillors' Surgery, regarding vehicles parking on grass verges in Worthing Road. She said that she had passed the details to the Clerk for possible further action.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that the Council had no jurisdiction in this regard. She advised that the West Sussex County Council, as the Highway Authority, was responsible for all matters pertaining to the public highway. She confirmed that she had already approached the County Council and had asked that a suitable response be made to the individual who had made the representation to Councillor Mrs Harrison.

The Committee NOTED this information.

12/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the next scheduled Meeting would be held on Thursday 5 June 2008.

Chairman:

Date: