

**MINUTES OF DRIFFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WERE HELD ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021 VIA ZOOM.**

**Present:** Cllrs G Lucas, M Blakeston, G Helliwell, A Croft, M Rogers, K McLeod, S Fletcher, T Watson, J Fletcher Claire Binnington Town Clerk

**EN/13/21 Apologies for Absence:**

None

**EN/14/21 Update on Projects from October minutes:**

**Potential Projects:**

- 1. Laundry Lane Water Pump and Beckside Project:** Funding would be sought by restarting the FONEP, as there is £1400 in that account and as a constituted group it would be eligible to more funding that if DTC applied. The water pump would be fully refurbished, the railings painted and interpretation boards erected to give information on the flora and fauna of the beck and the history of the area. ERYC would need to be contacted as the bridge was in need of attention. Other points: can the bin from Market Place be relocated to the park instead of the green wheelie bin which keeps ending up in the beck. Cllr C Scarlett commented that any improvements be vandal proof. *CLAIRE TO REFORM THE FRIENDS OF NORTH END PARK IN SPRING*
- 2. Remembrance Gardens:** the building itself was in desperate need of renovation, painting, new wooden fascia boards and the roof required attention. The youth congregated there on a regular basis smoking cannabis and leaving huge amounts of rubbish, however fortunately they did not vandalise either the gardens or the memorials. Fiona had mentioned the potential of a joint project with the detached youth workers and engaging the young people in the renovations. It was also thought that perhaps Men in Sheds could get involved as a cross generational project. CCTV was required and hopefully may be installed in the new year so more consideration will be given after that. *FIONA APPLIED FOR FUNDING FOR CAMERA UPGRADE AT PARK AND REMEMBRANCE UPDATE. WHEN LOCKDOWN FINISHES MOVE FORWARD.*
- 3. The Pinfold:** the Tidy Team will gradually clear the Pinfold of weeds and refurbish the flower planter. It was thought that Men in Sheds, due to its proximity to their base at the old depot, could also perhaps get involved longer term. It was also suggested that perhaps memorial iron benches be placed there in memory of those in Driffield who had made a considerable contribution to the community (eg. Cropton village). *TIDY TEAM REFURBISHED WOODEN PLANTER/NEW METAL PLANTER TO GO IN ALSO/PAVEMENT SWEEPER TO CLEAN THE STONEWARE/SEATING TO BE ARRANGED AND PERHAPS INTERPRETATION BOARD TO IN INSTALLED.*
- 4. Tree guards and hay racks in the town centre:** several of the trees have been felled by the ERYC so the guards stand empty, wonky and generally an eyesore, but for the hay racks recently planted by DinB. It has been suggested to DinB that alternative arrangements be made next summer e.g. planters etc so we will discuss this further in the Spring as DinB were very interested. *TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN – DESIGN AND SIGNAGE AUDIT BEING COMMISSIONED BY ERYC – AWAIT OUTCOME.*
- 5. Bus shelters:** the existing town centre bus shelters will be receiving attention from the Tidy Team in the coming weeks (probably after the lights are up) however the long term plan is replace them and it was

agreed that any replacements would feature bee gardens on the roofs. We believe this should be a reasonably straight forward task. *ONGOING – EXISTING BUS SHELTERS GIVEN FULL CLEAN. INTEND TO WORK FORWARD ON THE REPLACEMENT SHELTERS WITH BEE GARDENS.*

- 6. Fawcett Gardens:** the clerk reported that some seedlings now grown to a considerable size (not TPO'd) were causing subsidence at a neighbouring property. A qualified tree surgeon had inspected and recommended the trees come down before any further damage was caused. The clerk has instructed the tree surgeon to carry out the work in conjunction with the new fencing the Tidy Team will be erecting in the New Year. Letters will be sent to residents informing them and alternative trees may be planted at the advice of the tree surgeon. *TREE NOW FELLED, TIDY TEAM FULL CLEARANCE. REMOVAL OF SMALL WOODEN FENCE.*
- 7. Garden Tree Planting:** this project had taken a back seat due to COVID, it was agreed that it be revisited late next summer with a planned start in November, especially when Men in Sheds would be up and running as they were to be volunteers. *STILL INTEND TO MOVE ON THIS WHEN OUT OF LOCKDOWN FOR AUTUMN*
- 8. Tree Planting:** Gillian asked if there could be a tree planting scheme. The clerk explained that DTC does not own any suitable land however if any verges or other areas were identified funding may be sought if permissions were given. *UNDER REVIEW AT LATER DATE.*
- 9. Bike racks:** the clerk explained that she had never received a response from Lidl and had sent suggested site to Tesco, however last autumn spending was curbed, and she did not pursue it due to the costs of planning permission, the racks themselves and installation. This again could be revisited in time, particularly in a trial pedestrianisation did materialise. *ANGELA MERRILLS (ERYC) MANAGED TO PROCURE 20 BIKE LOCK RINGS TO BE ATTACHED TO BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN CENTRE – LOCATIONS TO BE AGREED OUT OF LOCKDOWN.*

#### **EN/15/21 Tidy Team Update:**

Street Cleansing regime fully restored after a fortnight of gritting took precedence. New estates requiring grit boxes – encourage residents to contact ERYC to request them in the first instance. New bin at Canal Head vandalised beyond repair, not being replaced. Publicise this vandalism on Facebook. **Agreed** to place refurbished litter bin adjacent to bypass at end of Kings Mill walk. Contact ERYC to request the installation of pavement from this point on the bypass to the Kelleythorpe roundabout.

Dog Fouling – new signs have gone out in areas that have been flagged up by members of the public to the clerk.

#### **EN/16/21 Climate Emergency Bill:**

**Agreed** with all in favour to not progress this item, however for DTC to create their own policy on reducing emissions in their operations and activities. An environmental town trail was suggested. Agreed to contact ERYC again to identify a climate change officer that could come and talk to the committee and assist in the creation of a plan.

#### **EN/17/21 Town Centre Strategy Update:**

ERYC are in the process of tendering for a signage and design audit of the town centre.

**Free town centre wi fi:** The clerk explained that this would be on the next full town council agenda as a partnership project with the ERYC and would

involve a small financial commitment from the town council for financial year 22/23 and 23/24. All except one member of the Environment Committee thought this was a good idea. More details and full report at the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

**EN/18/21 Solar Panels at Skerne Park:**

Watching brief in line with recommendations from Property and Assets.

**EN/19/21 Logistics of the Town Bus Review:**

The clerk confirmed she had been in touch with ERYC to a framework for the review would be established and launched in the summer.

**EN/20/21 Summer Hanging Baskets 2021:**

Cllr M Rogers declared a pecuniary interest in this item as he has a town centre businesses and took no part in the vote.

On the basis of the attached report, it was **agreed** with 8 in favour that hanging baskets be provided free of charge for 2021 only, for those businesses in George St, Exchange St, Mill St, Middle Street Nth and Sth and Market Place, who had been involved in the scheme in previous years.

**EN/21/21 Date of Next Meeting:**

Dependant on lockdown and progress – March or April.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....