MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the Allotments & Environment Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 23rd February, 2015 at 7.00 p.m. at Morecambe Parish Church
War Memorial Hall

Councillors Present – Councillors N. Baxter (Chairman), M. Pattison, J. Day, L. Davies and B. Spelling

Also in attendance – Chairman of the West End & Heysham North Allotments Association

Officer in attendance – A. Fawcett (Clerk’s Assistant)

21. Apologies for Absence

Councillors C. Wade and J. Bates

22. Declarations of Interest

None

23. Minutes of Meeting held on 1st September, 2014

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September, 2014 be signed as a correct record.

24. Allotment Update

The Chairman of the West End & Heysham North Allotments Association updated the committee with details about how the allotment was performing. He stated that everything was running well and that they were in the process of altering 3-4 plots for new members.

The Chairman of the Allotments Association mentioned that the Association had not spent the entire grant awarded by the Town Council for additional plots on the site due to the project not costing as much as anticipated. On behalf of the Association he requested they be allowed to utilise the remaining £100 toward a new notice board so members could keep informed about any new developments and urgent information.

In addition, the Chairman of the Allotments Association enquired about Town Council’s position regarding finding new land for Allotments in the Morecambe area, as numbers on the waiting list for the West End & Heysham North Allotment were still in the region of 40. The Chairman of the Allotments Association was informed that the Clerk had written to the City Council about some land that appeared to be unused on Mellishaw Lane. Unfortunately the City Council responded by saying that the land to the north of Mellishaw Lane had been designated for commercial use and therefore it was not likely that planning permission would be granted for allotment use. However it suggested that the land to the south of Mellishaw Lane could be more appropriate
but this was privately owned so permission could not be granted by the City Council, instead the landowner would have to be identified and contacted separately.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to agree that:

- The Allotment Association be authorised to utilise the remaining funds from the grant awarded for additional plots at the site to be used towards the cost of a new notice board for all of its members.

- The Town Council continue to review the finding of allotment space

25. Litter Picking and Dog Fouling

The Committee were reminded there was still £500 left in the budget to be utilised for Litter Picking or Dog Fouling projects.

The Committee discussed whether of not they knew of any issues relating to dog fouling and litter that the £500 could be utilised for. Councillor Davies suggested that Slyne Road leading onto Hasty Brow Road was covered in litter and need something doing. A litter pick was suggested but it was the general consensus that with the road being a 60 mph speed limit in parts, it would be too dangerous. Instead the Committee suggested that the Clerk contact the City Council to ascertain when they plan to clean the area.

As there were no other immediate issues raised from the members, it was the general feeling that the £500 for use on Dog Foul or Litter projects should not be allocated to a specific project as the elections were due in May and there could be a whole new Council to which may have alternative objectives and priorities.

Last year the Clerk wrote to all members of the Council asking them to put forwarded suggestions of “grot spot” areas for the Council to hold its litter picks. This was seen as a success and the Committee suggested this could be the same for the coming year.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to agree that:

- The Clerk to contact the City Council to ascertain when they plan to clean the area between Slyne Road and Hasty Brow Road.

- The Clerk to write to all members asking them to highlight any areas that are problematic with regard to litter with the intention to cover as many of these as possible through organising litter picks, working with other organisations.

- The remaining funds in the Dog Foul and Litter budget 2014/15 not to be allocated, and instead this to be decided when the new Council takes office after the May elections.
26. Morecambe in Bloom

The Committee were updated on progress so far with the Morecambe in Bloom 2015 project. They were made aware that all sponsors from the previous year had agreed to fund the competition for 2015. In addition, further sponsorship had been gained from four other businesses. The competition was due to be launched towards the end of February and a full hand over of balances be made to the Town Council as soon as possible.

That Council be recommended to agree to:

Note the report

--------------------------------------------
Chairman

The meeting closed at 7:55 p.m.

David Croxall
Clerk to the Council
23rd February, 2015