



MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Environmental Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 16th March 2020 at 5:00pm in Committee Room 1 at Morecambe Town Hall

In attendance: Councillors Anderton; J Ashworth; Mirka Balcer; Bates; Boyd-Power; Cleet; Heath; Firth Matthews; Pattison; Ross-Clasper

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor A. Ashworth
- 2. Declaration of Interests.** There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on this Agenda.
- 3. Election of Chairman and Vice- Chairman:** The Clerk informed Members that Councillor Boyd-Power has had to stand down as Chair of the Committee due to other commitments. The Clerk then asked for nominations for Chair. Councillor Boyd-Power proposed, and Councillor J Ashworth seconded that Councillor Matthews be elected Chair. On being put to the vote, this was carried unanimously.

Councillor Matthews then took the Chair and requested nominations for Vice-Chair. Councillor Heath proposed and Councillor Goodwin seconded that Councillor Firth be Vice-Chair, which when put to the vote was carried unanimously.

- 4. Ward Grants process and procedures:** The Chair reminded Members that the Town Council had approved a budget of £100,000 for Ward Grants. The allocation of these funds will be managed by this Committee and reported to full Council.

The main intention of the funds being to provide grant funding to support each Council Ward on environmental matters based on a set of criteria, yet to be determined. It was noted, however, that the escalating coronavirus pandemic is likely to have an impact on the Town Council's budget approved by Town Council in February.

Councillor Pattinson reported that the Festival and Events Committee had considered the applications for the 2020/21 festival funding and had agreed the allocation of the £30,000 budget set aside for this purpose. It was reported that, subject to Members approval, four applications had not been successful in receiving any festival funding but

had been assessed and reduced sums recommended for consideration by the Environmental Committee amounting to £8,750.

Notwithstanding the matters raised in relation to the coronavirus pandemic and festival funding, there was a discussion on how the Ward Grants funding could be applied for and allocated efficiently and equitably.

Several suggestions were made, including:

- a) specific areas of work and items of expenditure relating to environmental services and functions such as weed management, grass cutting and street cleansing
- b) allocation of funding by Ward based on number of electors and/or established need;
- c) direct collaboration with, and support of, community, faith and voluntary groups across all Wards, and;
- d) engagement with hard-to-reach groups

There followed a lengthy discussion on the mechanism for establishing how funding could be applied for and the possible criteria. After which it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors Matthews, Firth, Heath, Anderton and Pattison determine an approach for the application and allocation of Ward Grant funding and report back to the Environmental Committee.

- 5. Allotments update:** Councillor Cleet reported that and Councillors Boyd-Power and Ross-Clasper had represented the Town Council at meetings of the Allotments Committee. The meetings had been very positive, and the attendance of Ward Councillors has been appreciated.

It was reported that the Allotments Committee had submitted a planning application to build a community building following the, in principle, approval of the Town Council to build on the allotments site. Members were informed that, when complete, the building will be a real asset to the residents of Heyham North.

There followed a discussion on the whereabouts of the lease agreement with the Allotments Committee and this is to be investigated further.

- 6. Environmental Enforcement:** The Environmental; Enforcement Officer provided an update on recent actual and planned activities acting on behalf of Morecambe Town Council and in collaboration with Lancaster City Council.

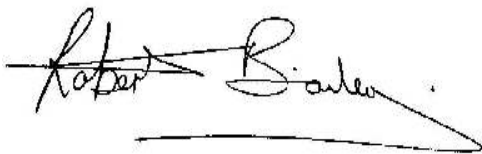
It was reported that between May and August the ban on dogs having access to the beach will be enforced and suitable signage will be procured jointly with Lancaster City Council for this purpose.

The Environmental Enforcement officer continues to work closely with his counterparts at Lancaster City Council and Police Community Support Officers to tackle litter, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Members asked several questions about these activities and thanked the Environmental Enforcement Officer for the work that he is doing on behalf of Morecambe Town Council.

At this point, Councillor Boyd-Power asked about plans for the 2020 Morecambe in Bloom Competition, the management of which is now incorporated within the Terms of Reference of the Environmental Committee.

There followed a general discussion about the arrangements for this year's competition, although it was noted that this is likely to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

- 7. Date of Next Meeting:** To be confirmed by the Town Clerk. The meeting ended at 6:05pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Bailey', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Bob Bailey. Town Clerk. Morecambe Town Council.
clerk@morecambe.gov.uk