



REGENERATION AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee held at Meeching Hall, Fort Road, Newhaven on **Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 7:00pm.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Shaun Boniface (Vice Chair)
Lesley Boniface
Mark Wardle
Jan Woodling

ALSO ATTENDING: Cllr. Graham Amy
Cllr Steve Saunders
Ken Dry, Town Clerk
Maxine Fifield, Deputy Town Clerk
Alison Campbell, RFO

RSD0022/24 The Chair stated that this meeting will be recorded and then made publicly available on the Newhaven Town Council Website for 28 days, followed by its removal and deletion.

RSD0023/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs S Macleod

RSD0024/24 TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGENERATION AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023 ARE AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 were considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes be signed by the Chair to be a true record of the proceedings.

RSD0025/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

RSD0026/24 PETITIONS/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

RSD0027/24 EASTSIDE TOWNS DEAL PROJECT UPDATE – ORAL REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting of the following points;

- Despite significant difficulty in sourcing quotes from Ecological Contractors/Consultants, work was nearing completion with respect to appointing such a contractor to carry out relevant mitigation works in respect of Great Crested Newts (GCN) on the site.
- In the aforementioned context the actual works to renovate/improve the existing allotment gardens on site, fresh quotations were being sought from the original list on contractors for these works.
- Given the anecdotally opposition of residents to the relocation of the existing playground on the site to the southern (Bevan Funnell) end of the site and that the redesign of the playground in its current location would entail further costs, this had been removed from the aforementioned contract/project works.

Subject to ratification by the Towns Deal Board, it is anticipated that this aspect of the project would be delivered separately by the Town Council following additional consultation regarding the style and amount of equipment and utilising any residual project funds.

- In the aforementioned context there would be no public information day as anticipated, whilst communication with the existing allotment holders had been maintained throughout regarding the renovation works.
- Once the new tender/quotations for the allotment works and GCN mitigation had been received then the project would be reappraised financially. Given that prior to these aforementioned developments there was a potential deficit of circa £80-100K it is anticipated that separation/removal of the playground relocation and revamp may well strengthen project financial viability going forward.

Cllr. Woodling raised the matter of some HERAS fencing at the northern boundary and the potential risk of injury to children climbing over it to get to the current playground.

Officers present confirmed that this had not been installed by the council, but was likely residual boundary provision from the Parker Pen housing development that had not been removed by the building contractor.

The Deputy Town Clerk indicated that its removal would be taken up directly with the building contractor.

RSD0028/24 REVIEW OF THE NEWHAVEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – ORAL REPORT BY THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK.

The Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) informed the meeting that initial quotations had been sought from three reputable Planning/Property Consultants in connection with a

necessary review of the existing Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan, indicating that the most comprehensive quotation was circa £20K.

The DTC then informed those present that there was a real possibility of additional costs should substantial changes to the Plan be necessary which would result in further public consultation as required by current regulation. This work would also necessitate a standing 'working/project group' to maintain oversight and project momentum. Cllr. S. Boniface stated that the latter function should be undertaken by this committee.

Following further discussion, the DTC informed the meeting that work would continue on this matter and a report would be taken to Full Council to engage a consultant accordingly.

RSD0029/24 TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR RESURFACING REAR YARD OF THE COUNCIL OFFICES.

The DTC summarised her report, which was in the context of the council's desire to secure an EV Van for council operations.

The RFO then updated the meeting regarding the procurement of an EV VAN outlining a range of likely costs and lead-in times for delivery, which at present were highly fluid due to ongoing manufacture and supply issues.

The RFO then updated the meeting regarding additional quotations being sought for EV infrastructure at the council offices which was essential and inextricably linked to potential delivery dates for the EV Van.

Following further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED

That Don Burtenshaw (of Uckfield) be commissioned to carry out the re-surfacing works to the rear yard of the council offices at a cost of **£2440 plus VAT.**

RSD0030/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT TO 24TH JANUARY 2024.

Cllr. L. Boniface queried the existence/rationale of the Coastal Communities, and the Pocket Park Project expenditure lines and the residual monies therein. The Town Clerk informed her that these were now closed/defunct projects and that for next year's Budget (24/25) they had been removed.

With no other clarifications sought, this report was noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:31pm.

Date:
Chairman