

Environment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 13 June 2018 at 18:30

Present :

Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Bird, Borg, G Carpenter, Hacon, Hanton, Pratt, Robinson-Payne, Waters-Bunn.

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor attended as a substitute for Councillor B Wright

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor attended as a substitute for Councillor K Grey.

Also in attendance :

Mr N Shaw (Strategic Director), Mrs G Britton (Head of Environmental Services) Mr C Crawley (Environmental Health Officer) and Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Wright and K Grey.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Carpenter declared a personal interest in the item relating to

Public Conveniences, in that he had been a previous employee of GYB Services. Councillor Bensly also declared a personal interest in this item in that a relative operates a Public Convenience.

Councillor Smith, declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Member of the GYBS Liaison Board.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 March 2018 were confirmed subject to the following amendment :-

- Declarations of Interest - The declaration of interest declared by the Strategic Director be amended to " as a Director of GYB Services"

The Head of Environmental Services reported that litter picking on Caister Bypass had now been scheduled for the 26 July 2018, however it was noted that grass cutting had been undertaken already on this area and that litter had been strewn all over the road, the Head of Environmental Services advised that she had hoped this litter picking exercise would have been undertaken at the same time to avoid this issue.

4 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Environment Committee Forward Plan, it was suggested that Officers discuss items coming forward and the possibility of items being moved to a later Committee date, in light of a vast number of reports due to the July meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED :

That the Committee note the contents of the Forward Plan for the Environment Committee.

5 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES - MARKET GATES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Head of Property and Asset Management's report which asked for Committee approval to the allocation of the 2018/19 Public Toilet Refurbishment budget (£160,000) to deliver specific projects.

The Head of Property and Asset Management reported that in 2014-15 a full review was undertaken of the public convenience facilities operated by the Council. As part of the review it was clear that a number of the toilet facilities within the Borough required significant investment. From 2016/17 Capital

funding was identified to undertake a refurbishment scheme across the operational facilities. Work had now been completed on the Jetty, High Street Gorleston, The Conge, Pier Head Gorleston and at this location a fully functional Changing Places unit had also been installed.

Members were advised that the Council currently operates a total of 11 toilet facilities through a mix of seasonal and year round operational public conveniences.

Year round public conveniences include:

- The Conge, Great Yarmouth – (Refurbishment complete)
- Market Gates, Great Yarmouth
- Euston Road, Great Yarmouth
- Jetty, Great Yarmouth (refurbishment complete)
- High Street, Gorleston (refurbishment complete)
- Pier Head, Gorleston (refurbishment complete)
- Ravine, Gorleston
- High Street, Caister
- The Green, Martham

Seasonal public conveniences include:

- North Drive, Great Yarmouth
- Marina, Great Yarmouth (refurbished in 2014)

The Head of Property and Asset Management reported that the following facilities had been highlighted as in need of immediate refurbishment :-

- Ravine Gorleston (4 individual cubicles)
- High Street, Caister
- The Green, Martham
- North Drive – to coincide with the completion of the Waterways Project and remodelled to reduce potential for anti-social behaviour.

It was recommended that facilities at Market Gates remain open until the formal design for the Market Place Redevelopment is confirmed.

Some concern was raised in relation to the proposed re-modelling of the facilities at North Drive in that some Members felt that this facility would not be suited to individual cubicles in light of the larger Waterways Project, the Head of Property and Asset Management advised that the units could be unisex facilities. The Chairman advised that the proposals could be subject to change and therefore suggested that a further design proposal for the North Drive Facility be completed and brought back to the Committee at a later date.

The Head of Property and Asset Management reported on the current facility at the Beach Coach Station, she pointed out that this unit had been managed and cleaned by the Beach Coach Station but had been subject to a number of

Anti Social Behaviour incidents therefore at present the facility had been closed and only opened in short blocks. The Committee were therefore asked to consider that any surplus funds be retained and used for the remodelling of the facility at the Beach Coach Station. Members were advised in remodelling the unit this would provide a toilet unit with a shower facility and that Lorry Drivers would use this facility via a keypad access.

RESOLVED :

(1) That approval be given to the 2018/19 Public Toilet Refurbishment budget (£160,000) allocation to deliver:-

Immediate refurbishment of the following:-

- Ravine Gorleston (4 individual cubicles)
- High Street, Caister
- The Green, Martham

(2) That a revised design of the North Drive facility be brought back to the Committee at it's meeting on the 5 September 2018.

(3) That approval be given to any surplus funds being retained for the refurbishment of the Beach Coach Station Facilities.

(4) That approval be given to the Market Gates facility remaining open until the formal design for the Market Place Redevelopment is confirmed.

6 AIR QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2018

The Committee considered the Head of Environmental Services Report which detailed Great Yarmouth's Air Quality Annual Status Report, this is an annual statutory report to Government on the state of local air quality in the Borough.

The Head of Environmental Services reported that the Borough Council must report annually on the status of the air quality in the Borough, as required by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The reporting format follows a standard national template.

Members were advised that overall, the Air Quality Annual Status Report has shown that air quality standards are being met, and should continue to be so for the next 12 months. The Council's detailed air quality monitoring programme gives the surety to vital decisions around transport, infrastructure, business, and housing development for the Borough.

In discussing the report the following issues were raised :-

- The significant difference between DT4 and DT12 in light of these monitors being within such a close proximity to each other, the Environmental Health Officer provided in depth detail to Members as to the differences between the

testing equipment and the wide variations possible, and pointed out the possible difference between the measurements could have been caused by the monitor at DT4 being located further back from the road than that at DT12.

- A question was raised in relation to the increasing particles level and what would be done about this matter, and it was advised that following the successful introduction of a new monitoring system which had produced positive data it was hoped that a report detailing findings and future monitoring would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED :

That the Committee note the contents of the report.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

St Georges Park - Social Enterprise

The Strategic Director reported for information that following the Social Enterprise tender process, Green Light Trust had been successful in obtaining the contract for the Social Enterprise Scheme, he advised that although the contract progression had been held up by the procurement process, it was hoped that a start date could be sought shortly.

The Strategic Director suggested that a meeting be arranged for Members of the Committee to engage with Green Light trust on site once work had commenced.

8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED :

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act."

9 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

(Confidential Minute on this Item)

The meeting ended at: 19:50