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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Steve Bull - In the Chair

Councillors Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Andrew Shirley and Geoff Stevens MBE.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Mike Galsworthy (Estates and Facilities Manager), Tanya Shaw (Design and Conservation Officer) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Burfoot, Cate Hunt, Steve Flitter, Carol Walker and Jo Wild. Councillor David Fearn attended as Substitute Member.

345/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 26 February 2015 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

346/14 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr John Dick, Chairman of the Ashbourne and District 50+ Forum, put the following question to the Committee:

“Will the Committee consider giving free parking at Ashbourne Leisure Centre to those patients who are referred by their doctor to attend exercise classes, for recovery from heart conditions, replacement surgery, diabetes, obesity and any other good reason why a patient should exercise? Now that Ashbourne Leisure Centre has been equipped with updated computerised tills this should be as easy as issuing the 2 hours FREE parking ticket given to ANYONE attending the ARC at Matlock, and should be in accordance with Derbyshire Dales policy statement, ‘to treat everyone fairly and equally’.”

In response to this question, the Chairman advised that any refund at Ashbourne Leisure Centre should be considered by the Council’s Leisure Services, in conjunction with advice on what it would cost the Council if this were implemented. The Chairman suggested that Mr Dick bring his question back to the relevant Committee for consideration after the forthcoming May elections.

347/14 – STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT MEMORIAL GARDENS, MATLOCK BATH

The Committee considered a report that informed members of structural damage affecting the public conveniences and shelter at the Memorial Gardens, Matlock Bath and outlined the options that were to be explored.

As part of a 5-year programme of condition surveys for all the Council’s key buildings, a survey took place at the public conveniences in Memorial Gardens, Matlock Bath. Significant structural defects were identified during the survey, and the public conveniences were immediately closed in order to protect the public. However, temporary toilets were installed in March to provide an alternative facility before the tourist season commenced. These would remain in place until decisions were made on the way forward.

A structural engineer’s report was commissioned and had now been received. The report outlined the extent of the damage and showed that the estimated cost of repairs was £176,167.50. Officers were working with Derbyshire County Council to substantiate these costs and to investigate further issues.

There were other options to these repairs, as set out in the report. A further report, which would set out advantages, disadvantages and the risks of each of the options, would be presented to a committee or Council meeting during the summer, when the appropriate course of action could be agreed. Other work, which may have an impact on this, was ongoing.

Should an option other than repair of the existing building be considered, local consultation should take place, which would include Ward members, Matlock Bath Parish Council and local visitors and businesses. The outcome of the consultation exercise would need to be considered before any final decision was taken.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, and

RESOLVED That a further report, which will set out advantages, dis-

(unanimously) advantages and the risks of each of each of the options, be brought to a committee or Council meeting during the summer.

348/14 – EROICA BRITANNIA

The Committee considered a report that updated Members on planning for the 2015 Eroica event. The report considered the District Council's role and contribution in this and future years in such a way that sought to retain and grow the event in the Derbyshire Dales whilst managing cost and environmental issues appropriately.

The first Eroica Britannia was held in Bakewell in June 2014, and the organisers' aim is was make a commercial success of bringing to Britain a cycling event that had run in Tuscany for some years.

Eroica was to be held in Bakewell from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 June 2015. The Festival (on Bakewell Showground) would run on all three days, with the cycle rides on the Sunday only. Unlike last year, when Festival entry was free of charge, there would be a £10 charge for Festival entry in 2015. The Eroica Festival incorporated live music, food and drink, cycle memorabilia and clothing sales.

The economic impact of the Eroica Britannia in the Derbyshire Dales was considered to be positive. It was therefore recommended that the Eroica Britannia was supported by the District Council, with a view to it becoming a successful long-term feature in the annual events calendar. Assistance from the Economic Development and Tourism service was being provided this year, as last.

However there were a number of environmental and cost issues that arose from the event in which the District Council had a role, either as the relevant statutory authority or as landowner. To this end, the Events Hub had analysed the issues and options. These were presented to Members in the report, together with a recommended approach, and included issues related to parking; noise, safety and licensing; room hire, toilets, waste and litter; and costs and recognition. With regard to the latter, a table setting out anticipated additional costs for services supplied by the District Council was set out in the report, showing a total additional cost of £12,000.

It was recommended that this additional cost was not recovered from the Eroica organisers for the 2015 event, but that they were recovered in 2016 and subsequent years, so that when the Eroica was profitable it was no longer subsidised by the Council Tax payer.

It was also proposed that this should require that the District Council was recognised as a sponsor of the Eroica in view of the services it was providing in connection with the event, and that the District Council logo therefore be included on the list of sponsors on the Eroica website.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Garry Purdy, and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. The impact of the Eroica Britannia event in 2014 is noted.
2. The District Council supports the Eroica Britannia in 2015 and beyond due to the positive economic impact arising, especially from overseas visitors, whilst managing cost and environmental issues appropriately.
3. Coordination of the District Council's input to the 2015 event via the cross-departmental Events Hub is noted.
4. The approach to parking set out in section 3 of the report is agreed.
5. The approach to noise and licensing issues set out in section 4 of the report is noted.
6. The contribution of the District Council's environmental and other services to the Eroica event is noted.
7. District Council costs in connection with Eroica are not recharged for the 2015 event but are recharged from 2016 onwards, and that this is confirmed in writing to the Eroica organisers.
8. In view of services undertaken in connection with the event, the District Council requests to be recognised as an Eroica sponsor.

349/14 – DRAFT CHARACTER APPRAISAL FOR KIRK IRETON CONSERVATION AREA

The Committee considered a report that advised on the public consultation undertaken in respect of the Draft Kirk Ireton Conservation Area Character Appraisal and recommended its approval with minor modifications to the proposed text.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

That the Kirk Ireton Conservation Area Character Appraisal be approved with minor modifications to the proposed text.

MEETING CLOSED 6.34 PM

CHAIRMAN