

CABINET

4 JANUARY 2016

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Cartwright, Poole, Atkins, Cooke and Davies

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Hodges

36. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record of the meeting

RESOLVED the chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 the recommendations set out in minute numbers 38 and 39 were agreed without being called for discussion

37. PROPOSED DESIGNATED CYCLE ROUTE IN ALEXANDRA PARK

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented the report of the Assistant Director for Environment and Place which outlined the results of a consultation on a cycling route through Alexandra Park.

The council had a longstanding ambition to introduce a cycling route through Alexandra Park, to help increase cycling opportunities in the town and provide a useful link between Silverhill and Queens Road. A cycling route through Alexandra Park was identified in the Hastings Planning Strategy 2011 – 2028, which was adopted on 19 February 2014.

The public consultation, which had taken place between 15 June and 21 August 2015, related to how a cycle route through the park should be implemented, based on proposals developed by East Sussex County Council. The proposals had also been considered by a reference group of key stakeholders, prior to the public consultation, which had provided early feedback to the county council and their design consultants. The proposals utilised existing pathways to create shared cycling and pedestrian routes, to help minimise the impact on the grade II* listed park.

The consultation highlighted a number of issues in relation to public safety, enhanced and effective signage on the cycle route and enforcement matters which would be submitted to ESCC for review. Following representations made during the consultation, a section of the proposed route in front of the café had been removed from the final scheme. Further work would be commissioned by ESCC to address the issues raised during the public consultation. It was intended that works to construct the route would then begin in mid to late 2016. ESCC will be fully responsible for project managing and funding the implementation of the route and associated signage.

Cabinet added an additional recommendation, set out in the resolution below; to review the cycle route through Alexandra Park six months after it had been opened and consider any comments received from visitors to park.

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Councillor Davies proposed approval to the recommendations set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that: -

- 1) **Hastings Borough Council agree to a shared cycle route through Alexandra Park in principle subject to East Sussex County Council:**
 - a) **Removing the proposed route in front of the café**
 - b) **Fully reviewing the results of the consultation and incorporating measures such as those listed below where practicable**
 - c) **Maximising the numbers of signs, bollards, finger posts and surface markings to ensure safety concerns are fully considered and addressed through appropriate measures implemented in the final design of the route**
 - d) **Where appropriate, using different coloured surfacing as a safety feature**
 - e) **Using clearer signage where the route merges or crosses with existing footpaths**
 - f) **Using cyclists dismount signs at appropriate locations**
 - g) **Providing cycle racks at appropriate locations**
- 2) **Hastings Borough Council publicly thank everyone who responded to the consultation, and in particular the participants of the reference group for informing the pre-consultation design process**
- 3) **A review of the cycle path through Alexandra Park be undertaken six months after it has been implemented**

The reason for this decision was:

Cycling is recognised as a key health benefit and provision of cycling facilities is supported by the government. Hastings Borough Council's Development Management Plan identifies a number of proposed cycle routes in the town, one of which is the route through Alexandra Park. East Sussex County Council is supportive of the route and will fully fund its implementation. Extensive consultation has been undertaken to inform the details of the final scheme.

38. COUNCIL TAXBASE 2016/17

The Assistant Director for Financial Services and Revenues submitted a report which sought Cabinet agreement for the calculation of the tax base for the purpose of setting council tax for 2016/17.

The council was required to inform East Sussex County Council (ESCC), the East Sussex Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner of its tax base for the purpose of setting council tax by 31 January 2016. The council tax charge would then be determined at the Budget Council meeting on 24 February 2016.

The council tax base was calculated by multiplying the total of the relevant amount for each of the valuation bands for the year with the authorities estimate for its collection rate for the year. Any variations experienced in the in-year collection rate of council tax would be carried forward as part of the council tax setting process for future years.

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The report also recommended that delegated authority be given to the Chief Financial Officer, under section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003, to calculate the council tax base in future years. This is because ESCC intends to set its budget in November next year and as such there would be insufficient time to determine the tax base in the usual way.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) **Cabinet agree that the council tax base for the year 2016/17 shall be £24,678, and;**
- 2) **Cabinet agree that in future years the determination of the Council Tax Base is determined each year by the Chief Financial Officer (currently the Assistant Director for Financial Services and Revenues)**

The reason for this decision was:

Setting the council tax base is the first step in determining the council tax for 2016/17. The tax base has to be determined by 31 January each year.

39. LAND AT SUMMERFIELDS, BOHEMIA ROAD

The Assistant Director for Financial Services and Revenues submitted a report which set out an objection received to the proposed disposal of land forming open space at Summerfields, Bohemia Road. The land formed part of a larger area, including the Summerfields Business Centre and Register Office building, which the council had agreed in principle to dispose of to an affordable housing provider.

Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 the council was required to advertise the intended disposal of any land defined as open space in a local paper for two consecutive weeks and then consider any objections received.

A notice had been placed in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer on 16 October and 23 October 2013 and one letter of objection had been received by the closing date.

The report responded to details of the objection and also set out the merits of disposing of the land, which included a capital receipt to the council and an increase in the supply of housing locally, including affordable housing units.

RESOLVED that having carried out the necessary procedures under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and having taken account of the objection received, Cabinet agrees to proceed with the sale of land at Summerfields

The reason for this decision was:

The council must fully and properly consider any objections in accordance with statutory provision in coming to a decision

40. MINUTES OF THE MUSEUMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2015

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The minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 30 November 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 30 November 2015 be received

41. **MINUTES OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2015**

The minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 14 December 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 14 December 2015 be received

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.24 pm)