

---

## SHEPPEY AREA COMMITTEE

---

**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the Castle Connections, Queenborough Town Community Centre, Railway Terrace, Queenborough ME11 5AY on Thursday, 22 September 2022 from 7.00 pm - 8.12 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Cameron Beart (Vice-Chair), Richard Darby, Oliver Eakin, Simon Fowle, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton (Chair), Elliott Jayes, Peter Marchington, Pete Neal and Bill Tatton.

**NOMINATED PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Parish/Town Councillors Linda Brinklow (Sheerness TC), Geoffrey Partis (Warden PC), Chris Reed (Sheerness TC) and Dolley White (Sheerness TC).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart and Emma Wiggins.

**OFFICERS PRESENT (Virtually):** Jo Millard.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (Virtually):** Councillors Mike Dendor and Tim Gibson.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Peter Macdonald and Ken Pugh.

### 297 **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

### 298 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Elliott Jayes disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Sheppey Matters.

Councillor Bill Tatton disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in Song Signing.

Councillors Cameron Beart, Richard Darby and Peter Marchington disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as they all sat on Queenborough Town Council.

### 299 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 June 2022 (Minute Nos. 47 – 58) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 300 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members noted the progress on actions.

### 301 **SCRAPSGATE FIELD, MINSTER**

Councillor Cameron Beart spoke about Scrapsgate Field, Minster and explained that Swale Borough Council (SBC) used to cut and maintain a horse-riding ring on

that land. This stopped due to SBC budget cuts and to protect brown nesting birds. A group of horse owners had requested to bring it back into use and were willing to contribute to the cost. Councillor Beart consulted with the Head of Leisure and Environment who advised that the support of the Sheppey Area Committee should be sought in the first instance, before taking the matter to the Environment Committee.

Rachel Lecount was in attendance on behalf of the riding group and spoke about the history of Scrapsgate Field. She explained the safety concerns of training horses in the field where the ground was uneven. Dog owners also walked their dogs in the field and some did not clear up after them which was a health risk to horses. A twenty metre by forty metre arena with bark chip was requested.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said that although SBC would prefer to keep the land as it was for biodiversity reasons, officers could look at the possibility of the horse-riding group leasing the land and taking on the liability.

It was agreed that officers would take this away to see what the options were and then refer the matter to the Chair of the Environment Committee to request it be added to a future agenda.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the issue of reinstating the horse-riding circle in Scrapsgate Field, Minster be referred to the Chair of the Environment Committee.**

**302 PUBLIC FORUM**

Linda Brinklow invited everyone in attendance to the launch of the Sheppey Light Railway Greenway Project on Friday 30 September 2022 at 7 pm at the Sheerness East Working Men's Club. This was a new community project to restore the old Sheppey Light Railway into an east-west off-road walking, wheeling and cycling greenway, connecting towns and villages across the Isle of Sheppey.

Parish Councillor Dolley White asked for an update on the gypsy and traveller situation at West Minster. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to look into the matter and would provide an update in due course.

Parish Councillor White asked about the Development Forum Project. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods asked Councillor White to email her the details and following consultation with officers an update would be provided.

Parish Councillor Chris Reed asked for an update on Neptune Terrace. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to ask the Active Travel Coordinator to contact Councillor Reed with an update.

A member of the public asked about applying for a dropped kerb. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to make enquiries with Kent County Council (KCC) on behalf of the resident.

**303 LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED**

No issues were raised.

### 304 UPDATE ON WORK PLAN

The Sheppey Area Committee was allocated a total of £47,000.00 for the financial year 2022/23. The funding scheme was opened-up for external organisations to apply and the closing date for bids was Monday 1 August 2022. £38,412.10 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This meant that there was potentially £8,587.90 funding remaining. All applications were assessed for eligibility by officers and a scoring process carried out. Officers submitted three options for the Committee to vote on as set out in pages 61 to 63 of the report.

Councillor Elliott Jayes proposed that Option 1 be selected and this was seconded by Councillor Oliver Eakin.

On being put to the vote Option 1 was agreed.

The Committee were asked to consider how they would like the remaining £8,587.90 to be allocated. It was agreed to hold a second funding round and the Policy and Engagement Officer would publicise the details at the beginning of October 2022. An assessment process by officers would take place and the proposals would come back to the December 2022 meeting for consideration.

***Resolved:***

***That £38,412.10 funding be awarded to projects in the following proportions:***

- a) Youth Resilience UK CIC - £1,560.00***
- b) Sheppey Matters - £6,585.42***
- c) Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd - £5,045.00***
- d) Song Signing - £3,936.00***
- e) Member bid (improvements to New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea) - £20,000.00***
- f) Queenborough Town Council - £1,285.68***

### 305 MATTERS REFERRED TO AREA COMMITTEE BY SERVICE COMMITTEES

No issues were raised.

### 306 MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR CONSIDERATION

The issue of reinstating the horse-riding circle in Scrapsgate Field, Minster be referred to the Chair of the Environment Committee.

Chair

Copies of this document are available on the Council website <http://www.swale.gov.uk/dso/>. If you would like hard copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or telephone the Customer Service Centre 01795 417850.

All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel