

**BRIDGE END GARDEN WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 3 MARCH 2003**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.  
Councillors Mrs D Cornell, R C Dean and D M Miller.

Officers in attendance:- Miss E Anderson, J Bosworth and  
Miss S Chapman.

**BEG209 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M A Hibbs and the clerk to the Saffron Walden Town Council.

**BEG210 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**BEG211 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Bye-laws**

It was reported that a vandal proof case for the new bye-law signs had been delivered and would be put into place shortly once the overall strategy for signage had been considered.

**(ii) Flooding**

It was reported that a number of trees had been removed from the Slade stream in Bridge End and rubbish had been cleared from the culvert. It was noted that at the Development Control and Licensing meeting held on 24 February 2003, planning permission had been granted for engineering work to be carried out in Bridge End Gardens to provide a defence for illegal entry to the gardens and provide some occasional but limited storage for flood water. Now that this planning permission had been granted, the 33 Engineer Regiment could carry out the appropriate works. Officers were in negotiation with the Regiment. It was noted that the Saffron Walden Town Council had now received a copy of the Hannah Reid report. It was also noted that the issue of flooding in the Bridge Street area would be discussed further at the next Environment and Transport Committee meeting on 11 March 2003.

**(iii) Gardener/Supervisor**

It was noted that the Gardner/Supervisor was now back at work after a period of sick leave.

**BEG212      PROGRESS WITH HLF BID**

The Project Manager reported that the Council's bid for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful and the HLF had awarded a stage II pass. The sum of money awarded was £387,000 and a start would be made on works once HLF had given their authority to commence. The programme was scheduled to commence in April 2003 and run for a period of two years. The working party were presented with a draft press release outlining details of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the work that would be carried out with the money provided. Members agreed that the press release contained all of the relevant information and the Project Manager confirmed that the press release would be made available as soon as the HLF had approved it.

**BEG213      PROPOSED TENDERING PROCESS**

Members considered a report concerning the proposed tendering process for the various contracts for the Bridge End Gardens Restoration Project. Work to be carried out would include repairs to structures, path resurfacing, purchase and installation of security cameras, purchase of plants and statues, repairs to iron work, railings and statues, manufacture of new hoops and railings, works to existing trees and Slade brook, provision of electricity to gardens, toilet refurbishment, shutters on the summer house and provision of interpretative boards.

Members agreed with the proposed tendering arrangements. They also agreed that contracts outlined in the report would be implemented in general accordance with the agreed programme as set out in the HLF stage II submission, as may need to be varied during the implementation of the project. Members agreed that the tendering process arrangements be forwarded to the Community and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2003 with a recommendation of approval and that the Resources Committee be informed.

**BEG214      FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS**

Councillor Morson reported that there had not been a recent meeting with Friends and that he was unable to attend the AGM. The Project Manager said that he had been in contact with the Friends via E-mail and that the relationship between them was developing well.

**BEG215      BYE-LAWS – DOGS**

A letter had been received requesting that dogs on leash should be allowed in Bridge End Gardens. For information, the Project Manager informed that the bye-laws could be modified in order to allow dogs in the gardens, should members consider this appropriate. The letter considered that people with dogs would respect the gardens, keep their dogs on leads and clear up after them. However members considered that there were many other places

nearby for people to walk their dogs. It was agreed that dogs remain banned from the gardens. Should aggrieved persons wish to complain, they should contact the Chairman or their local member.

**BEG216      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Monday 14 April 2003 in the new Members' Room.

**BEG217      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Working Party expressed their gratitude to Councillor Morson and officers for the successful outcome of the HLF bid. It was now important to progress the restoration as quickly as possible.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm.