



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Town Hall
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Clerk: Karen Wakefield

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at **6.30pm** on **Tuesday 14th May 2024** in the Function Room of the Town Hall, Sherwood Drive, New Ollerton

Present: Cllrs B Wells (Chair), D Batey, A Brazier, L Shilling (ex-officio)

Mrs K Wakefield – Clerk

Mrs J Fletcher – Deputy Clerk

Harri Phillips – Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Steve Long – OVRA

Apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs P Beedle due to work, L Brazier at NSDC meeting, D Shelton for personal reasons

Resolved: That these apologies be accepted.

Declarations of Members Interests: None

Declarations of any intentions to record the meeting: None

ENV/24/19 To approve the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were signed as a true and correct record.

ENV/24/20 Mill Field

1. To receive any further updates regarding a proposed wildflower garden on Mill Field

The Clerk introduced Steve Long from Ollerton Village Residents Association (OVRA) and Harri Phillips from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT).

A meeting had taken place on Mill Field with Steve, Harri, Cllr D Shelton and the Clerk to discuss the proposed wildflower garden. The Clerk handed over to Steve to give an update to members.

Members of the public had created a desire line as they used the field to cut through to the rear of the garage on the A614, dog walkers and for occasional events. It was proposed that part of the field, approximately a third, be converted to a wildflower meadow.

The Clerk tabled an aerial view of the field showing the desire line and the siting of the petrol station and McDonald's. There is no footpath around the edge of the field.

The planting would need to be indigenous to the area and improve biodiversity.

Harri outlined the correct make up of a 'wildflower' meadow which is not what is normally perceived by the general public. It will be made up mainly of grasses to increase the insect and bird population in the area.

Harri would like to invite local schools to join in with soil testing and it could become a big community project.

Cllr Batey requested that no further trees be planted on that land and brought the recently commissioned Biodiversity Report to their attention. (A copy of the report can be made available as it is not commercially sensitive).

Before any work can be carried out the following need to be looked at:

- Habitat management and monitoring plan to be carried out
- Costs for increasing the biodiversity of the field
- Need to understand what is required
- Look into available grants
- Sponsorship to be considered

The Clerk will contact the Biodiversity Officer for further information and more discussion will take place at a future meeting.

ENV/24/21 Amenity Space and Play Areas

1. To receive any updates regarding the timber skatepark ramps

The Clerk informed members that work to remove the wooden ramps at the skatepark had started on Monday of this week. All waste would be taken away and the site made safe each day.

It was agreed by all that members of the committee would visit the skatepark prior to it being opened to members of the public.

It was proposed and agreed that, the concrete base be made safe and painted with various games such as hopscotch and also a roadway to enable youngsters to enjoy learning to use a skateboard and the recommendation was made to take the decision to Full Council for ratification.

Proposed: Cllr B Wells
Decision: Unanimous

Seconded: Cllr D Batey

2. To receive any updates on repairs and maintenance

The Clerk reported that while general repairs and maintenance works were ongoing as and when required the parts for the see saw were still awaited from the supplier. This had been chased up several times but would be looked into further.

ENV/24/22 Cemetery

1. To receive any updates regarding the cemetery extension

Nothing further to report.

It was suggested that once the purchase had been finalised, any development of the site be put on hold until funding could be found to assist with the considerable cost that any works would incur. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk were instructed to look into costs and designs for memorial walls/trees for the land to the rear of the Cemetery.

ENV/24/33 Trees

1. To receive any relevant updates

Tree works are to be carried out as and when required according to the schedule of works provided by the contractor.

The Clerk reported that following a report by a member of the public, the trees on the housing development site on Whinney Lane (old Miners Welfare site) may need some work carrying out. This would be assessed and processed if required.

ENV/24/24 Amenity Work – Grass cutting, litter picking, street cleaning etc

1. To receive any relevant updates

An issue had arisen regarding grass cutting on an area of grass in our control within the housing development site on Whinney Lane (old Miners Welfare site). This has now been dealt with and compliments had been received from the public.

A schedule from Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) had been received, to be completed by our Amenity Team, showing where and when grass cutting was carried out during this years season.

ENV/24/25 Allotments

1. To receive a report on current tenancy and any other relevant issues

Cllr Batey reported that a very productive meeting had been held today with the Allotment Tenants Association (ATA).

Issues had been raised regarding the Newark Co-production group which the Clerk had followed up after the meeting. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the leader of the group who had cleared up some of the issues and had agreed to meet with the Clerk on Wednesday.

The ATA reported that their trailer needed some works carrying out in the sum of £260. They have been using this trailer whilst assisting the Council with the clearing of several allotments plots. Cllr Batey proposed that the Council pay for half of the cost and it was agreed that this be taken to Full Council for further discussion.

Some members of the ATA had been assisting St Joseph's school with their garden each Tuesday and reported that the school was in need of some bulk compost for planting. The Clerk suggested that the school contact the Council with their requirements and apply for funding.

ENV/4/26 War Memorial Gardens

1. To receive any relevant updates

With regards to the cleaning of the memorials, the Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) who had suggested that she contact the War Graves Commission for their assistance and advice.

The Clerk will also make contact with Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) regarding their Community Fund which has recently opened up for applications.

ENV/24/27 Correspondence

1. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

The Clerk outlined the project and the item was deferred to the next meeting for further discussion.

ENV/24/28 Date & Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.36pm