



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Town Hall
Sherwood Drive
New Ollerton
NEWARK
Notts
NG22 9PP
Tel: 01623 860811
Email: office@ollerton-tc.gov.uk
Clerk: Karen Wakefield

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at **6.30pm** on **Tuesday 9th June 2024** in the Function Room of the Town Hall, Sherwood Drive, New Ollerton

Present: Cllrs B Wells (Chair), D Batey, P Beedle, L Brazier (ex-officio), R Fazil, L Shilling (ex-officio)

Mrs K Wakefield – Clerk

Mrs J Fletcher – Deputy Clerk

Apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs M Staley due to work, A Brazier for personal reasons

Resolved: That these apologies be accepted.

Declarations of Members Interests: None

Declarations of any intentions to record the meeting: None

ENV/24/29 To Elect a Chair of the Environment Committee for the year 2024/2025

Cllr B Wells, being the only person nominated, was unanimously elected as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2024/2025.

ENV/24/30 To Elect a Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee for the year 2024/2025

Cllr D Batey, being the only person nominated, was unanimously elected as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2024/2025.

ENV/24/31 To approve the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

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

ENV/24/32 Biodiversity

1. To receive a verbal report from the Clerk regarding Town Council's responsibilities with regard to Biodiversity

The Clerk gave an overview of a presentation on Biodiversity from a recent meeting that she and the Deputy Clerk had attended.

Current legislation under the Environment Act 2021 informs all Parish and Town Councils of the need to consider biodiversity when discussing any planning applications and also the requirement to have a Biodiversity Policy. The start date for the process was January 2024 and the policy should be revisited at least every 5 years.

The Town Council have commenced the process working with OVRA and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust regarding Mill Field and the provision of a wildlife garden.

The Clerk suggested that a working party could be formed to take this further and Cllr P Beedle expressed his interest.

Presentation to be sent to all members of this committee.

ENV/24/33 Mill Field

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

The Clerk had received an email from NWT and along with OVRA they are keen to continue with the previous discussion regarding Mill Field. Harri (NWT) had confirmed that they are only allowed to work with community groups. Members were happy for Harri to continue with soil testing of the site which does not incur any cost to the Council.

Cllr L Brazier to contact the NSDC Biodiversity Officer for further information.

ENV/24/34 Amenity Space and Play Areas

1. To receive any updates regarding Central Park

The Clerk informed members that the timber ramps had now been dismantled and the site made safe for play.

Contact had been made with Live and Local with regard to the art project on the concrete base. Live and Local will carry out a consultation with the elderly and younger residents of the community.

Cllr L Brazier informed members that there was a substantial sum of S106 monies available for Ollerton and Boughton use, this could potentially be used for gym equipment provision on Central Park.

All members agreed that the provision of gym equipment be revisited.

2. To receive any updates on repairs and maintenance

The Clerk reported that the majority of repairs had been undertaken with some parts on order for the smaller outstanding issues.

ENV/24/35 Cemetery

1. To receive any updates regarding the cemetery extension

The Clerk reported that surveys had still to be undertaken and she would make further contact with the relevant bodies.

The Clerk also reported that she was still awaiting further information from the Church Solicitors and would chase this up.

ENV/24/36 Trees

1. To receive any relevant updates

As previously reported tree works are ongoing according to the tree surgeons schedule.

The Clerk reported that the trees on the old welfare site were growing out of hand and a site visit would be undertaken to ascertain the extent of the issues in the area.

The family of a young man who had recently passed away had requested that they

be given permission to site a bench in memory of him adjacent to a tree on the pathway between the new estate at the bottom of Whinney Lane and the back of Petersmith Drive housing estate. The tree is currently being used for hanging memorials and family and friends would like to provide a more suitable memorial.

The Clerk and Cllr Brazier had carried out a site visit and it was proposed and agreed that a bench could be sited in this area and the Clerk would work with the family to carry this out.

Proposed: Cllr D Batey **Seconded:** Cllr L Shilling
Decision: Unanimous

ENV/24/37 Amenity Work – Grass cutting, litter picking, street cleaning etc

1. To receive any relevant updates

The Clerk reported that the team are working well to keep up to date with all works scheduled during the holiday period and with one member of the team on long term sick.

A issue was reported regarding the team when watering of the planters was taking place and the Clerk would look into this further.

ENV/24/38 Allotments

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

The Deputy Clerk reported that there were a number of tenants who had been reported to be giving up their tenancy but that there was a waiting list so this would not cause any problems.

A plumber was required for the leaking tap and this was in hand.

ENV/24/39 War Memorial Gardens

1. To receive any relevant updates

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a response from the local Funeral Directors with regards to the cleaning of the Kohima stone and War Memorial.

ENV/24/40 Correspondence

1. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

Item deferred from the last meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that the item be added to the agenda for a future Junior Town Council meeting.

ENV/24/41 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.13pm