



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Town Hall
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Clerk: Karen Wakefield

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Environment Committee held at **7.00pm** on **Tuesday 12th September 2023** in the Function Room of the Town Hall, Sherwood Drive, New Ollerton

Present: Cllrs B Wells (Chair), D Batey, P Beedle, A Brazier, D Shelton,

Mrs K Wakefield – Clerk

Mrs J Fletcher – Deputy Clerk

Apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr L Brazier (ex-officio) who was at a NSDC meeting and Cllrs L Shilling (ex-officio) and M Staley for personal reasons.

Resolved: That these apologies be accepted.

Declarations of Members Interests: None

Declarations of any intentions to record the meeting: None

Due to the inclement weather the various planned site visits had had to be postponed.

ENV/23/09 To approve the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023

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

ENV/23/10 Amenity Space and Play Areas

1. To discuss future actions regarding the timber skatepark ramps

The Clerk updated members on the current situation regarding the skatepark and Central Park as a whole and reported that Central Park was currently locked due to issues once again with the wooden ramps. It was agreed by all that a visit during the day time was to be arranged.

The possibility of replacing the wooden ramps with concrete was discussed along with fencing being installed to enable the play areas to still be used when the skatepark had to be closed for repairs.

Following further discussion it was proposed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk were given instruction to look at alternative solutions and costings for the replacement of the timber ramps.

Proposed: Cllr D Batey
Decision: Nem-Con

Seconded: Cllr A Brazier

2. To consider quotations and receive any further updates on repairs and maintenance

The Deputy Clerk updated members on the repairs that were required along with the quotations for works to the various play areas.

Repairs to:

Toro matting repairs– Whitewater Park
Pod seat replacement – Yew Tree Park
Wheelspin drainage channel required – Central Park

All of the above items were discussed and it was

Resolved: that the Deputy Clerk be instructed to place the orders for the above parts and relevant works.

Repairs to:

Multi play unit replacement part– Whitewater Park

Resolved: that a site visit be undertaken by Cllrs Batey & Shelton with a view to a verbal report being given at Full Council.

ENV/23/11 Cemetery

1. To discuss future recommendations regarding applications for commemorative benches

The Clerk tabled a proposed amended copy of the Town Council's Memorial Bench Policy for members approval.

Following discussion it was proposed and agreed by all that the amended wording be approved.

2. To receive any updates regarding the cemetery extension

The Clerk updated members on the situation with the land adjacent to the cemetery currently owned by the Church and Poor Lands. The price had previously been agreed with the Church and we were now awaiting confirmation of the details of their solicitors. The process was moving forward slowly.

ENV/23/12 Tree Survey

1. To note recommendations for work highlighted by the recent tree survey

The Clerk informed members that every tree on land owned by the Town Council had now been surveyed. The Surveyor had highlighted areas of work according to a traffic light system with the most urgent works being required within the next 6 months. Costings for each of the areas were discussed with the pathway behind Petersmith Drive, which the Town Council had taken over responsibility for from NCHA many years ago, required the most expensive works undertaking.

Following discussion it was proposed that a recommendation be made to Full Council that monies be taken from the current Ear Marked Reserves with an additional EMR being set up separately for tree works in future budgets. It was also proposed that the current contractor be added to our list of approved contractors.

Proposed: Cllr D Batey **Seconded:** Cllr A Brazier
Decision: Nem-Con

2. To approve a recommendation to Full Council for a schedule of tree works

Following discussion it was proposed and agreed by all that the agreed recommendations in the Tree Surveyors report are taken to Full Council for ratification.

ENV/23/13 Amenity Work – Grass cutting, litter picking, street cleaning etc

1. To receive and discuss a request from a volunteer

The Clerk informed members of a proposal by a member of the public to take on some of the green areas within Boughton that the Town Council are contracted to cut for floral displays.

Following discussion it was:

Resolved: that, as the grassed areas are owned by the County Council, the Clerk be instructed to contact the member of the public and refer them to the County Council and also the Sherwood Forest Friends of the Earth and Edwinstowe in Bloom teams for their advice.

2. To receive an update from Sherwood Forest Friends of the Earth and Edwinstowe in Bloom

Following discussion, the Clerk was instructed to write to both groups and thank them for their communication regarding the upkeep of the grass verges and green open spaces.

3. To receive any further relevant updates

None.

ENV/23/14 Mill Field

1. To discuss a proposed wildflower garden on Mill Field

The Clerk had received communication from the Chair of OVRA who had proposed that part of Mill Field could be turned in a wildflower meadow. Whilst this was agreed it was a lovely idea it could prevent the field from being used for public events.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a site visit would take place and that further advice was required regarding the ecology of the environment. Cllr Beedle was happy to contact OVRA and obtain further information.

ENV/23/15 Allotments

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

The Deputy Clerk updated members on current tenancy and vacant plots which were in the process of being relet. No major issues at this time.

The Clerk had requested again that members of the Allotment Tenants Association meet with the Town Council staff on a more regular basis as had previously been

carried out. Currently awaiting further communication regarding this.

ENV/23/16 War Memorial Gardens

1. To receive any relevant updates

The Clerk informed members that the wall around the Memorial Gardens had developed a large crack. This had been reported to the highways team at NCC who had surveyed the wall and stated that it would be repaired in due course. They had informed the Clerk that the wall was not in any danger of collapse.

ENV/23/17 Date & Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.27pm