

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2017 AT MILLFIELDS PAVILION AT 7.15 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr C Border (chairman)  
Cllr A Whyte  
Cllr J Neish  
Cllr C Pearce  
Cllr A Holloway  
Cllr M Williamson  
Mr G Britton (Co-opted member)  
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

55. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr G Norman

56. To Receive Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr J Neish item 59 (i) (ii) and (iii)

57. To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Resolved:** That with the minutes 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be signed as a true record.

All in favour. (Prop Cllr Williamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Whyte) All in favour

58. To receive training update on cemetery regulations and fees.

Clerk provided written overview of cemetery procedures and gave short talk on the notes provided. She advised that she is willing to provide one to one training in the office on request if members have any further questions.

59. Garden Plots:

(i) To receive an update on the garden plots.

Report provided to members. Following further advertisement in The Villager further plots have been taken so currently there are 2 half plots vacant and one of these is potentially taken.

Cllr Whyte commented that the hole in the allotment fence caused by a vehicle is large however it may increase light to the plots.

(ii) To consider quotes for allotment skip.

Agreement made 2016 that a skip would be provided at the start of the season to allow for the removal of winter debris. Quotes from 3 companies provided. To be in situ over Easter holiday weekend.

**Resolved;** That an 8 yard skip be supplied by Chapsmiths. (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Holloway) 6 in favour 1 abstention.

(iii) To consider request for retention of plot 18 post residential move.

Resident has sold residence and awaits date for moving. Does not want to start planting if plot cannot be retained. Now have 2 half plots vacant and no waiting list however regulations state that plots are for residents of the Parish.

**Resolved:** That the plot must be handed back once the resident moves away from the Parish. Prop Cllr Pearce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Holloway) 6 in favour 1 abstention.

60. Trees:

(i) To consider purchase/installation of nesting boxes.

Cllr Whyte spoke about a project to place a selection of bird/bug boxes in engineers wood/Falkland walk to attract wildlife to the area. Cllr Holloway volunteered to assist Cllr Whyte with putting the boxes up

Cllr Border said she had spoken to resident who was involved with RSPB who may be able to offer help with the project.

**Resolved;** That £300 be allocated from Environment budget to provide a range of boxes.( Prop Cllr Williamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Neish ) All in favour.

- (ii) To receive an update on trees St Johns Churchyard following site visit by HDC.

Cllr Border confirmed that a meeting had been held with HDC tree officer. The officer had confirmed that the limes would not survive drastic tree work due to age and condition and that they will probably require replacing within the next 10-15 years.

The tree officer also recommended echo sounding of the Beech tree on the perimeter of the church yard which has evidence of fungus which causes Beech wood heartwood rot. This is not curable and eats away the core or roots of the tree.

The Clerk has logged the need for branches to be cut back from power cables with UK Power networks.

**Resolved:** That the Beech tree be felled and replaced. (Prop Cllr Holloway 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

Quotes for dead wooding the lime trees to be taken to April full council.

- (iii) To consider the letter from HDC on Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire.

**Noted**

- (iv) To approve site location for Christmas tree 2017.

Referred to committee by full council. Report from CCC Highways states that there is no suitable site on the High Street.

Cllr Neish commented that the location at the top of Overcote Lane would require a lot of preparatory work with the need to remove shrubs and that it is also obscured by parked cars.

Resolved: That the pond site be used for 2017 Christmas tree. (Prop Cllr Neish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Whyte) All in favour

61. To note the making 'grey areas greener' project Holywell School.

Clerk spoke to Vice Chairman as approach from school to support was at very short notice. Outcome of application awaited.

Mr Britton reported that he had divided some of the snowdrops to promote growth next year.

**Noted**

62. To note the mini guide to the Ouse Washes Landscapes.

**Noted**

63. Items to report

- Cllr Holloway reported that a new judge will need to be found for the garden plot competition following redundancies at Huntingdon Garden & Leisure. Cllr Whyte & Cllr Holloway agreed to take on responsibility for the judging.
- Mr Britton suggested planting Montana over tree stump Holywell Front to make a feature of the tree stump.  
He also asked that the bus company be contacted regarding continued damage to the grass verge/footpath on Mill Way as he had evidenced them being the cause.
- Cllr Pearce asked if anything could be done about the large pine tree to rear of bungalow Church Street which is subject to TPO but is causing problems with the sale of the property. It was suggested that the owner contacts HDC again to discuss.

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64. To note date of next meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

Date