



MINUTES

Meeting: ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMITTEE

Date: 19th June 2019

Time: 10.30am

Venue: NORTH WEALD LIBRARY

PRESENT:

Councillors (3) G Mulliner (Chairman), A Buckley, T Blanks*

Also in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca, Clerk to the Council

Aimi Middlehurst, Parish Council Support Assistant

*Present for part of the meeting

Members of the Public (0)

E19.01 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Buckley **PROPOSED** Cllr Mulliner as Chairman of the Committee, this proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr Blanks. There being no other nominations, Cllr Mulliner was duly elected as Chairman of the Environmental Committee for the current municipal year.

E19.02 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mulliner **PROPOSED** Cllr Buckley as Vice Chairman of the Committee, this proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr Blanks. There being no other nominations, Cllr Buckley was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Environmental Committee for the current municipal year.

E19.03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NOTED apologies for absence from Cllr Eldridge and Cllr Wood (Non Committee member)

E19.04 OTHER ABSENCES

NOTED Cllr Clegg

E19.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED there were no declarations of interest.

E19.06 MINUTES

Members **APPROVED** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2019.

E19.07 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

E19.08 PLAY AREAS

a) Damage

Members *NOTED* the damage to the Play Areas at Weald Common and Thornwood Common

b) Weald Common former Play Area fence

Following item A, Cllr Mulliner proposed to remove the fence completely and make good any uneven ground as required. Seconded Cllr Buckley. All *AGREED*.

c) Weald Common Play Area

Members *NOTED* the incident and that the Play Area was monitored over a period of five days and no further incidents had occurred.

E19.09 ALLOTMENTS

a) Allotment Warden – Queens Road and Wheelers Farm Gardens

Members *NOTED* that the Allotment Sub Committee have temporarily taken over wardenship of the site from 1st June.

The Clerk reported that advertisements had been placed in the Village Life magazine and on the Council noticeboards and website. To date, no enquiries had been received.

b) Petrol Mower – Wheelers Farm Gardens

Members *NOTED* that housed within the Garage on Wheelers Farm Gardens Allotments is a petrol lawn mower that allotment tenants are able to use which was previously administered by the Allotment Warden.

Members *AGREED* for the Parish Council office to hold the key for the garage and to take responsibility for refilling the petrol can as required. The users to notify the Parish Council office when the can required refilling.

c) Thornwood Allotment Report

Members *NOTED* the verbal report regarding the incident at the site.

The Clerk reported that agreement had been reached with the Allotment Warden for budgetary assistance with mowing Charlie's Garden and some of the larger areas as the volunteers were unable to continue.

d) Marestail at Hastingwood Site

Members *NOTED* the advice in Appendix Two. Following discussion, members *AGREED* for Cllr Mulliner to meet and discuss these recommendations with two of the Allotment Plot Holders and agree a course of action.

e) Changes to Allotment Rules and Regulations

Members *AGREED* the change to the Rules and Regulations for the allotments as follows: 'The Council encourages limited use of pesticides on the allotments'

E19.10 ASSET CHECKS

The Clerk reported on the requirement for the Council assets to be logged and checked. Members **AGREED** for the Temporary Committee Clerk to take responsibility for the asset checks for North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood by mid August. Cllr Mulliner to undertake the asset checks for Weald Common.

E19.11 BULB PLANTING

Members **AGREED** to plant Crocus and Daffodil bulbs at the entrance gates and within the Cemetery and also within the High Road as required. Planting to take place in October.

E19.12 ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN POLICY

Members **AGREED** the suggested amendment to the Policy.

- *Continue to distribute recycling sacks on behalf of EFDC*

E19.13 TREES FROM STANSTED AIRPORT BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Members **NOTED** that 15 sapling Silver Birch trees had been received from the Stansted Airport Biodiversity Programme. The Chairman of the Committee and of the Council jointly agreed the planting areas. Members **NOTED** these locations.

- Weald Common
- Thornwood – 1 or 2 to Allotment Warden for Charlie's Garden
- Thornwood Playing Field (to replace the cherry trees that were cut down)
- Thornwood Parish Hall (2 x near to Cyril's bench)
- Cemetery (2 x Hedges Section and 2 x Statue Section)
- Opposite the Debt of Honour in the hedgerow

E19.14 VILLAGE GREEN COAT OF ARMS

Members **NOTED** that the Coat of Arms had been removed and arrangements are being made for it to be moved. The cost to restore the Coat of Arms was **NOTED** at approximately £470 but this figure did not include the transportation from North Weald to Bedford to the restorers.

E19.15 CEMETERY

a) Unused area

The Chairman provided a verbal report to the Committee following a site visit. His recommendation was that the Committee take no further action at the present time. Members **AGREED** to take no further action in this unused area at present.

b) Unused area restriction

Members **NOTED** that it has been necessary to restrict the Cemetery to allow Assistance Dogs only due to dog walkers allowing their dogs off lead and defecating within the grounds.

c) Diana Memorial Tree

The Chairman provided a verbal report to the Committee following the site visit. Members **AGREED** to take no further action at present.

d) Topple Test

The Clerk reported on the Topple Test undertaken by the Staff on 28th March 2019. Five issues were identified that required action within six months of the report. Grave owners have been contacted in writing and the situation is being monitored by the staff. Members *NOTED* this information.

Two graves require work via the Council's contracted grave digger and Members *AGREED* to fund these works.

e) Request to extend assignment period

Members considered the circumstances around the request to extend the assignment period of Grave Space Number 47. Following recommendation from the Clerk to the Council Members *AGREED* to extend the period by 17 years.

E19.16 UPDATE ON OTHER MATTERS

a) Bin outside the Shops

Cllr Buckley suggested that a bin be placed at the parade of shops in the High Road following concerns over litter since the Co-Op had removed their bin. Members *AGREED* to send a letter to each of the shops requesting sponsorship for the bin. Also for the Clerk to contact EFDC to enquire if this could be emptied as part of the EFDC Street Cleaning round and ascertain if there would be any cost to the Council.

b) Sponsorship of Village Garden

Cllr Buckley reported on the sponsorship of the Village Garden. Four local businesses have continued to support the planting and upkeep of the Garden and one new business has come forward also offering sponsorship.

c) Norway House

The Clerk advised that the EALC had reported that all micro grant applications were being consider shortly. Cllr Buckley reported that a representative of Norway House had advised that all sunflower seeds had been planted and the competition to grow the tallest sunflower was underway. He also advised that a volunteer was clearing the central area to plant strawberries. A quote is required to provide a raised bed for the children to plant further produce against the brick wall.

Meeting closed: 11.48am

Signed

Date