

Present: Cllrs Lankester, Lowther, Rogers

In the Chair: Cllr Plater – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Chairman

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Plater as the Chairman of the Environment and Amenity Committee. Unanimously agreed.

2. Vice-Chairman

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Lankester as the Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Amenity Committee. Unanimously agreed.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence, all Councillors were present.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

5. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. Minutes of Meeting held on 4th February 2020

Resolved: that the minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting held on 4th February 2020 be approved as a true record of the Meeting.

The Chairman would sign the minutes as soon as possible.

7. Environment and Amenities

7.1 Allotments

The Clerk advised on the quarterly inspection dated 30th June 2020, it was reported that on the north gate, the hinge post was overgrown with ivy.

Action: Clerk to ask Bonz to clear.

The Committee considered the quotation from Bonz for £300 to cut back the Oak Trees which have electric cables running through them. The Clerk advised that Bonz would also need to arrange for the electricity to be shutdown.

Resolved: to recommend to the Full Council that the quotation from Bonz for £300 is accepted for the tree works at the Allotments.

The Clerk advised that the ditch outside the allotments required cleaning. The Clerk reported that an Allotment Tenant had suggested that the ditch was cleared, a pipe installed for the water flow and then the ditch was back-filled. This would then stop the need for future ditch clearance, would make maintenance to the hedges easier and could also provide some parking.

Cllr Lankester expressed concern regarding the habitat.
Taking into consideration the concerns expressed by Cllr Lankester, the Committee agreed not to progress this idea at this stage as it was felt that the environmental value was a higher priority than trying to accommodate cars.
Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation to clear and tidy the ditch.

The Clerk reported the Allotment renewals would be distributed by the end of the month.

7.2 Hasler Green

No issues to report

7.3 Woodrolfe Green

The Clerk advised on the quarterly inspection dated 30th June 2020, it was reported that there were some trees which had dead branches and were overhanging.

The Clerk reported that ex-Cllr Nixon had met with Irwin Mitchell Insurers and had given a statement concerning the claim at Woodrolfe Green.

The Chairman advised that the Committee had previously looked at repositioning the recycling banks which would provide additional car parking spaces.

Action: Chairman to contact Maldon District Council to discuss further.

The Committee discussed options for making Woodrolfe Green a payable car park. The Clerk advised she had spoken with Adrian Rayner, South East Essex Parking Partnership to find out further information. Adrian advised that the area would need to be tarmacked and marked with parking bays, fees and times would be set by the Parish Council, income would be the Parish Councils and a Parking Regulation Order would need to be in place (Adrian would be able to assist with this). Paying of fees could be done via telephone or mobile app so there would be no need for payment machines which can be costly.

Action: Committee to investigate this further.

To deal with the current surfacing at Woodrolfe Green, it was agreed to look at resurfacing (road plannings), installation of a rumble strip and installation of a height barrier to prevent large vehicles using Woodrolfe Green as they damage the surfacing.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations as follows:

- Supply of 40 tonnes of road plannings
- Laying of road plannings
- Supply and installation of rumble strips
- Supply and installation of a height barrier

7.4 Cemetery

It was reported that there had been several positive comments since the appointment of the new Contractors DW Maintenance.

It was suggested that some trees were planted near the far corner and some

wildflowers. Cllr Lowther reported that the Woodland Trust regularly donate trees and are happy to meet to give advice.

Action: Cllr Lowther to contact the Woodland Trust.

It was reported that the Cemetery shed was offered to residents free of charge but there had been no response.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation for the removal of the shed.

7.5 Highways/Footpaths

Highways issues had been reported at the Full Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted a list of potholes in the village to Cllr Durham to be considered for the pothole scheme.

The Clerk advised that on the Essex County Council website, a pothole is defined as being 50mm deep and 100mm across in two directions at right angles to each other.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Durham, as it was felt that the pothole criteria may be fine for cars but not for cyclists.

The Clerk reported that the gutters were overgrown.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Durham to ask when the gutters would be sprayed off and also when the gulleys will be cleared and when they were last done.

Cllr Rogers reported that vegetation is growing onto the pavement on New Road and Thurstable from the Bus Depot.

Action: Clerk to write to Go Ahead (Hedingham) to request that the areas are cleared.

Cllr Lankester reported that there are a number of signs which have faded and are not clear. There are also signs which are obscured by vegetation.

Action: Councillors to report signs to the Clerk, providing a photograph if possible. The Clerk can then report to the relevant authority.

7.6 Street Lighting

No issues to report.

7.7 Dog/Litter Bins

There were no issues to report.

7.8 Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting she had asked the First Responders if they would be able to carry out a monthly inspection of the defibrillators. Unfortunately, they are unable to assist.

The Clerk advised that she had been checking the defibrillators.

8. Plans Projects for 2021/22

Woodrolfe Green as discussed at item 7.3 and the Cemetery as discussed at item 7.4.

9. Other Matters

Cllr Lankester reported that he had read the recent UN report on biological diversity and suggested that the Parish Council look at their current assets and see how we can enhance biodiversity.

It was suggested that the Committee may wish to consider tree planting and a wildflower meadow at the Cemetery.

Cllr Lankester advised that he would be happy to finance the purchase of seeds for a wildflower meadow.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....