

Present: Cllrs Bell, Page
Ms. E Bamford – non-voting member

In the Chair: Cllr Plater – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: 1 Member of the public

1. Chairman

Cllr Bell nominated Cllr Plater to be Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee. The nomination was unanimously agreed. Cllr Plater was declared Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Vice-Chairman

Cllr Plater nominated Cllr Rogers to be Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee. The nomination was unanimously agreed. Cllr Rogers was declared Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Rogers.

4. Declarations of Interest

Ms. Bamford declared a personal interest as follows:

- Personal interest as she is an Allotment holder and would be representing the Allotment Tenants.

5. Public Forum

There were no comments from the member of the public.

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2023

Resolved: The minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting held on 18th April 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

7. Quarterly Inspection Report

The Quarterly Inspection Report dated 12th July 2023 was received and noted. The Committee would address the items raised under agenda item 8.

8. Environment and Amenities

8.1 Allotments

At the recent informal meeting between the Parish Council and some Allotment Tenants, it was agreed that Elaine Bamford represents the Allotment Tenants as a non-voting member of the Environment and Amenity Committee.

Inspection Report:

- Trees and Hedges Eastern Boundary – Bit straggly in the northern half
- Water butts – Quite a few less

Ms. Bamford reported that some Allotment Tenants would be happy to tidy up the hedges on the northern and eastern boundary. They can trim the side but are unable to trim the top as it is too high. If the height was reduced, they would be able to help maintain the top.

Action: Ms. Bamford to speak to the Allotment Tenants who had agreed to help maintain the hedges to find out the suggested height of the hedge.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Bonz to get a quotation for the works.

Ms. Bamford also reported that the hedge at the west end between plot no.10 (the end plot) and plots 4, 9, 14, and 20 needs cutting back as it is overhanging onto the plots.

Action: Trimming of the hedge to be discussed at the meeting with Bonz.

It was agreed to have a site visit in early September with Bonz and any Allotment Tenants who wished to attend.

8.2 Hasler Green

Inspection Report:

- Streetlight – lamp now working

The Clerk had circulated photographs of a tree on the boundary of Hasler Green. The resident had contacted her to see if the Parish Council would consider cutting the tree back as it was overgrown and the leaves and debris from the tree fall into her property.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Bonz to get a quotation to trim and shape the tree. Tree T7 on the map of the inspection report.

The Clerk advised that the other trees on Woodrolfe Green also required attention. Tree T3 is very large and is blocking the streetlight.

Action: Works to the other trees to be discussed with Bonz and quotations to be obtained to set aside funds in the 2024/25 budget.

8.3 Woodrolfe Green

Inspection Report:

- A dead tree near the bench and low-hanging branches

Action: The Chairman agreed to look at the trees to see what work was required.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Stephens had submitted a request to Maldon District Council (MDC) for 1) the removal of the noticeboard and 2) new stickers for the recycle bins. The Clerk reported there is a small sign on the noticeboard giving information on the times of usage which will need to be removed.

Ms. Bamford suggested that the vegetation on the left-hand side as you enter the service road at Woodrolfe Green, could be cut back. This area is owned by MDC and if it was cut back, it could provide additional parking.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Stephens to take this up with MDC on behalf of the Parish Council.

8.4 Cemetery

At a previous meeting, Cllr Stephens had suggested that consideration be given to providing an additional area for planting rose trees.

Action: To be considered further by the Environment & Amenity Committee.

Action: Clerk to arrange a site meeting for the Committee.

A resident had requested permission to install a hardwood bench at the Burial Ground. The Clerk advised that she had emailed information on the recycled benches that the Parish Council had purchased. The resident stated that they wanted a hardwood bench and had forwarded information on the bench.

Action: Clerk to speak to the resident to advise:

- 1) The bench suggested by the resident was not suitable. The bench was for domestic use and not commercial use.
- 2) Any bench purchased would need to be installed into the ground and securely fixed by a Contractor.
- 3) How will the bench be maintained.

Action: Clerk to obtain a copy of a contract for the installation of memorial benches from MDC.

8.5 Highways/Footpaths

Cllr Bell reported that the village sign had still not been put back up.

8.6 Street Lighting

The Chairman advised that an email had been received from Cllr Stephens suggesting that consideration be given to taking over the responsibility for the streetlight in Estuary Mews/Hunts Farm Close. Cllr Stephens felt that the light should be on all night given the trip hazard across the entire span of the road. As this is an Essex County Council (ECC) light, it turns off at 1 am.

The Committee considered the suggestion from Cllr Stephens but agreed that they did not wish to take on the cost and responsibility of an additional streetlight.

8.7 Dog/Litter Bins

A request had been received from a resident who lives near the litter bin on the High Street near to the telephone kiosk. The resident advised that when people are using the bin, they are looking into his window and disturbing his privacy.

The Committee considered the request to reposition the bin to the location suggested by the resident (on the opposite side of the telephone kiosk on the pavement). The proposed location would 1) be on the footpath which would be a hazard for pedestrians, 2) need permission from Essex County Council to move onto the footpath and 3) need permission from the Conservation Officer at Maldon District Council as the suggested location is in the conservation area. The Committee, therefore, decided against the repositioning of the litter bin.

8.8 Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that the issue with the battery on the defibrillator outside the Sailing Club had been resolved. She had checked the defibrillator at the Fire Station the previous week and an additional set of pads was required as the equipment had been used.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Rogers had advised her that a defibrillator had been sent to the school by ECC. She was unsure whether this equipment was for the school only or available for public use. Cllr Rogers would update the Committee once she had further information.

8.9 War Memorials

There were no new issues to report.

The Chairman advised that further work may need to be carried out to the war memorial at St Mary’s Church in approx. 5 years.

9. Other Matters

Telephone Kiosk – It was noted that Tollesbury Climate Partnership (TCP) wished to use the telephone kiosk on the High Street to publicise TCP and provide information to residents. It was suggested that an agreement for the use of the telephone kiosk was needed between Tollesbury Parish Council and TCP.

Action: Clerk to ask TCP to draft an agreement for the use of the telephone kiosk.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment and Amenity Committee will be held on Tuesday 21st November 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....