

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 22 JUNE 2016

Present: Councillor J Greenslade (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, M Creaghan, MH Greenslade, AJ Hill, D Hill, A McCarthy, D Nowell, M Pearce, P Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillor S Rydzkowski

EA1 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest
Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA2 Minutes

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EA3 Development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council had appointed a sub-committee to give consideration to issues relating to fracking and that this would include the site adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct. The Chairman also reported that the protest group against fracking had been visited by the Environment Agency to provide details of the flood defence scheme works that were about to commence:

Recommended,
That the report be noted.

EA4 Woolston Park – unauthorised access by travellers

The Chairman reported on the unauthorised encampment in Woolston Park by two caravans and a motor home. The local Police Community Support Officer had visited the travellers to provide a means of liaison with the group. Information had been provided to the parish council by the Borough Ward Councillors on the action being taken to end the encampment. The travellers had left the site before court action could be taken:

Recommended,
That

1. the report be noted;
2. a letter be sent to the police recognising the support given by the Police Community Support Officer;
3. the Borough Council be asked to ensure that in the event of a future similar incident information be provided direct to the parish council;
4. thanks be recorded to the Borough Ward Councillors for their support regarding this matter.

EA5 Hillock Lane amenity area car park

The Clerk reported that Conlon Construction had completed the resurfacing of the car park and had agreed to complete landscaping work at the entrance to help prevent unauthorised access:

Recommended,

That the report on the works to the car park be noted and the thanks of the Council be recorded to Conlon Construction.

EA6 Woolston Playing Fields – management and future use

The Clerk reported a request from the Borough Council for the views of the Council on the use of the playing fields by the Kings Leadership Academy following their occupation of the new school at Hillock Lane. Discussions had taken place between officers and the school regarding a lease of the land to the school as sports pitches subject to similar arrangements for public access to the facilities as existed in respect of the former Woolston Community High School:

Recommended,

That the Borough Council be informed that there is no objection in principle to their proposal subject to further information on the proposals to protect public use.

EA7 Kings Leadership Academy

The Clerk reported on a meeting held with the Bursar and Operations Manager regarding shared use of the parish council and school car parks. The school had requested use of the car park in return for the use of the school car park at weekends and whenever needed. The request to use the council's car park was to prevent parents needing to park on Hillock Lane and causing disruption to traffic and upset to residents.

The school had also requested the Borough Council to allow use of the adjacent playing fields. A response was awaited to hire the fields to use for Physical Education during the school day. The school were aware of the parish council's interest in the playing fields.

The school had reported the intention to explore the possibility of extending the current fence at the corner closest to the council's car park around the newly seeded land to the school car park barrier. This was to prevent any vehicular access to the council's land. The school was also to check with users of the playing fields that there was still access to the playing field for ambulances.

An invitation had been extended to members to attend the school Open Morning on Saturday 25 June 2016:

Recommended,

That

1. approval be given in principle to a trial use of the car park by parents at the beginning and end of the school day and at other times when required by the school in exchange for use of the school car park for community use associated with the playing fields. The Clerk be

- authorised to meet again with the school to prepare details for approval of this arrangement;
2. the school be informed that the council has responded to the Borough Council regarding the request made by the school for use of the playing fields;
 3. the intention to provide fencing adjacent to the council's car park be supported;
 4. the school be thanked for the invitation to members to attend the Open Morning.

EA8 Martinscroft Village Green – traffic calming scheme

The Clerk reported that the consultation documents produced on the proposed traffic calming scheme by the Borough Council had been circulated to all members for comment. Following consultation with the Chairman, the Borough Council had been informed that the documents had been approved subject to the closure date for comments being extended. A report on the results of consultation would be reported to the next meeting:

Recommended,

That the action in approving the Borough Council's consultation documents relating to the proposed traffic calming scheme be approved.

EA9 Bus shelter at old Manchester Road

The Committee noted that details were awaited from the Borough Council regarding assistance with the replacement of the bus shelter:

Recommended,

That the report be noted.

EA10 Development of "old Billy" scheme

The Committee noted that a meeting was to be arranged with Borough Council Officers to progress the scheme.

EA11 Battery Lane allotment site

– arrangements for liaison meeting with the Battery Lane Allotment Association

The Committee gave consideration to arrangements for liaison meetings with the Association:

Recommended,

That the Chairmen of the Council, the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee be authorised to meet representatives of the Association at liaison meetings.

– cultivation of plots

The Clerk reported on the cultivation of plots and action following the serving of Notices of Unsatisfactory Cultivation:

Recommended,

That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to take any further action in respect of the cultivation of plots.

EA12 New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – issues relating to Woolston

Councillor J Greenslade reported on matters relating to Woolston under consideration by the Group. It was noted that the minutes of the group meeting held on 23 May 2016 and other information had been supplied to members:

Recommended,

That the report be noted.

EA13 Business raised by members

No items to report.

Chairman.....