

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 20 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: Councillor MH Greenslade (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, M Creaghan, J Greenslade, B Maher, A McCarthy,
D Nowell, M Pearce, S Rydzkowski, P Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillors A Hill, D Hill

EA73 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA74 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors A Hill and D Hill.

EA75 Minutes

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EA76 Matters of report from previous minutes

No matters to report.

EA77 Presentation by Environment Services Manager

The Committee received a report from the Environment Services Manager on matters relating to Woolston and on the use of Woolston Playing Fields and the adjacent amenity area.

Woolston Playing Fields

The Borough Council had agreed to manage the public use of the playing fields from September 2012 following the closure of Woolston High School. The Council's Education service in the Families and Wellbeing Directorate had responsibility for the area playing fields that previously were used by the high school and for public use outside school hours. The remainder of the area was in the ownership of the parish council. The Education service had continued to provide funding for the maintenance of the whole of the playing fields. The Playing Fields Strategy recently published for consultation by the Borough Council recognised the importance of this facility for public use. Interest had also been shown by the Kings Leadership Academy in its use by the school. The strategy document had identified the significant cost in developing the area to provide playing pitches and related facilities for users. Bodies that may provide grant aid had been identified to assist in this provision. The strategy document recognised the importance in consultation and support from the parish council and current and future potential users when considering a development scheme to support any grant aid application. The use of the adjacent amenity area in the ownership of the parish council was likely to form consideration of any development proposal.

Maintenance of path to the playing fields

The sports club users of the public access from Hillock Lane into Woolston Playing Fields had offered to improve the surface of the path. The maintenance of this route was under consideration by the Borough Council

Woolston Park and Ranger Cabin

The support of the Friends of Woolston Park in assisting in maintaining the area was recognised by the Borough Council. The Council noted that some repair work had been carried out to the Ranger Cabin that was used by the group and other users of the park.

Entrance to Woolston Park – parking on grass verge

The Council reported on complaints made by residents at the parking on the grass verge at the entrance on Somerset Way to the park. This applied particularly on match days but also often occurred at other times. Meetings had been held with officers to discuss physical measures to help prevent this but the estimated cost of any scheme had been prohibitive.

Recommended,

That the Environment Services Manager be thanked for his report and:

1. The Executive Director of Families and Wellbeing be requested to arrange a meeting with the relevant officers of his directorate to discuss with the parish council the future public and school use of Woolston Playing Fields and the Environment Services Manager also be invited to attend this meeting.
2. Details of the Planning Inspector's decision on the maintenance of a public access to the playing fields be supplied to the Environment Services Manager.
3. A further meeting be held with officers to consider a scheme for protecting the grass verge at the entrance to Woolston Park from the parking of vehicles.

EA78 Development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct

No matters to report.

EA79 Parish Path Warden scheme

Councillor Nowell presented and the Committee noted a report on public footpaths:

Fencing comprised of 'Heras' fence panels holding a rock revetment in place alongside the path from New Cut Lane to Bridge Lane previously had razor wire on top. This wire has been removed and is now situated on top of the original boundary fence for the adjacent industrial premises. This fence has been moved to a width of approximately one metre from the Heras fence/rock revetment. Updated report on this sent to acting Public Rights of Way officer. All other paths checked on Saturday 9 February 2019. No damage from overnight high winds. All paths clear of obstructions. Surfaces in good condition with the exception of path from Woolston Weir to Thelwall Lane (entrance to Woolston Eyes) which whilst surfaced is uneven and prone to waterlogging. This path is however passable with care. Repair of the finger post at New Cut Lane still required.

EA80 Hillock Lane Amenity Area – development of improvement scheme

No matters to report.

EA81 Somerset Way at entrance to Woolston Park - parking

No matters to report.

EA82 Kings Leadership Academy – shared use of car park

The Committee noted that the shared use of the car park continued successfully.

EA83 “Old Billy” scheme – draft design

No matters to report. Response awaited from the Borough Council to the draft of the design for the “Old Billy” sign.

EA84 Business raised by Council members

No matters to report.

Chairman.....