

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor M Greenslade (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, J Greenslade, D Hill, A McCarthy,
D Nowell, M Pearce, S Rydzkowski
Apologies for absence: Councillors M Creaghan, AJ Hill, P Wright

EA27 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest
Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA28 Minutes

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EA29 Development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct

The Chairman reported and the Council noted that information from the protest group was available on Facebook social media. A Family Fun Day was planned by the group for 7-9 October 2016.

EA30 Hillock Lane amenity area

The Committee gave further consideration to the future use of the grassed area:

Recommended,
That consideration be given with officers from the Borough Council on options for this area.

EA31 Woolston Playing Fields – management and future use

The Committee noted that there had been no further information from the Borough Council.

EA32 Kings Leadership Academy

The Clerk reported that details had been requested from the Borough Council on the organisations and times of use of the playing fields for the 2016-17 season to allow use to be made of the Kings Leadership Academy car park as an overflow area.

EA33 Martinscroft Village Green – traffic calming scheme

The Committee noted further to minute C44 20 July 2016 that the Borough Council was currently processing the public notice for the proposed works. The Borough Council's procedures for administering the process for this type of scheme was being applied.

EA34 Parish Path Warden scheme

Councillor Nowell gave a report on matters relating to the designated public footpaths since the last meeting. Reports had been made to the Borough Council on the following:

- Debris along the towpath from New Cut Lane to Weir Lane had been cleared by the Borough Council;
- a large pot hole on New Cut Lane had been reported to the Borough Council;
- the hedges along Mill Lane path had been cut back. The Borough Council was following up on reports of Japanese Knotweed;
- The Public Rights of Way Officer was taking action to ensure public access of the route through Juniper Lane and had written to a landowner;
- A section of Footpath 12 to Nicol Avenue was currently impassable and the Public Rights of Way officer was taking action.

EA35 Bus shelter at old Manchester Road

Further to minute EA22 20 July 2016 the Clerk reported that a response was awaited from the Borough Council on the siting of a replacement shelter on old Manchester Road.

EA36 Development of “old Billy” scheme

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

EA37 Battery Lane allotment site

– liaison meeting with the Battery Lane Allotment Association

The Committee gave consideration to a report on the liaison meeting held on 13 September 2016:

Recommended,

That

1. the Council agree to continue consideration of applications from the Association for the making of a grant of up to £50 each year to assist in works to communal areas on the site;
2. the procedure for letting vacant plots be amended by reducing the period from 21 to 10 days for each person to respond when offered a transfer of plot or a new plot;
3. the request from the Association for future annual rental demands to be issued in March before the commencement of the Allotment Year in April be accepted;
4. the Clerk obtain details from the Secretary of tenants who had not received a rental demand;
5. the offer from the Association to inform tenants when a plot was vacant be accepted;
6. the present arrangements for Spring and Autumn liaison meetings between members be maintained;
7. the Secretary and Clerk agree arrangements for monthly contact by email/text/phone and at other times as required by either side to ensure that regular liaison is maintained relating to the allotment site.
8. the Clerk contact the Borough Council Estates Division regarding the maintenance of the access road to the site;

9. the repairs carried out by the Association to Battery Lane and with the assistance of David Wilson Homes in the provision of materials and the knowledge of the Borough Council Highways Section be noted;
10. it be noted that the Council had not agreed to commit to any ongoing maintenance arrangements for Battery Lane with the Borough Council and that this would need to be kept under review;
11. the incident of fly-tipping at the site and the removal of the waste by the Association be noted;
12. the procedure agreed with the Borough Council for the disposal of waste from communal areas be noted;
13. it be noted that tenants continue to be responsible for the disposal of waste that cannot be composted;
14. approval be given to the siting of a shed for the storage of tables, chairs and similar items by the Association subject to consideration of a suitable location; the shed to be in the ownership of the Council following the completion of the work;
15. approval be given to the creation of a Wild Flower area on the north eastern boundary of the site;
16. the Clerk provide the Secretary with the contact details of the officer at the Borough Council;
17. it be noted that an independent inspection of plots was to be carried out during the Autumn in addition to that undertaken in the Spring;
18. the Clerk contact the Secretary before issuing Notices of Unsatisfactory Cultivation to allow information to be provided to the Council of any tenants in difficulty in maintaining their plot;
19. the Clerk be authorised to also apply the principle of humanity rather than strictly objectivity in determining the issue of a Notice to a tenant whose plot is considered to be contravention of the tenancy conditions;
20. it be noted that the Association will assist any tenant member in difficulty in maintaining their plot in the short term to avoid nuisance to adjoining plots;
21. the offer from the Association to give consideration to maintaining a vacant plot to avoid nuisance to adjoining plots be accepted and the Clerk advise the Secretary of the date when the tenancy of a plot is to be surrendered;
22. the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to take any further action in respect of the cultivation of plots.

EA38 New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – issues relating to Woolston

The Committee noted that items relating to the work of the Group had been circulated to members.

EA39 Business raised by members

No items to report.

Chairman.....