

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

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

Apologies for absence: Councillor S Rydzkowski

EA67 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest
Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA68 Minutes

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the deletion of the reference in minute EA 60 to the path at the Woolston Guard Weir.

EA69 Development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct

There were no matters to report.

EA70 Hillock Lane amenity area – provision of fencing

The Committee noted a progress report on the provision of fencing at the entrance to the car park.

EA71 Kings Leadership Academy – shared use of car park

No matters to report.

EA72 Martinscroft Village Green – traffic calming scheme

The Clerk reported further to minute EA59 – 23 November 2016 that the Borough Council had requested written confirmation of the approval given to the works to be carried out. It was noted that public notice would then be given of the scheme.

EA73 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, where appropriate, to the Borough Council on the following:

- Path behind Warrington Fencing Ltd at New Cut Lane and Woolston Park South had been resurfaced.
- Brook Lane – maintenance required.
- Juniper Lane – Public Rights of Way Officer dealing with a complaint regarding damage.

- Weir Lane – the surface of the area near to the guard weir had been affected by the flood defence construction works taking place. A report was to be made to the Public Rights of Way Officer.

EA74 Bus shelter at old Manchester Road

Further to minute EA61_- 23 November 2016 the Clerk reported that the Borough Council had agreed to supervise the installation of the replacement bus shelter and the work was expected to take place early in 2017:

Recommended,
That the report be noted.

EA75 Weir Lane Play area – proposed improvement

The Committee noted that the Borough Council was carrying out consultation on the proposed refurbishment of the play area on the basis of the use of section 106 funding from the David Wilson Homes development and a contribution from the parish council:

Recommended,
That a request be made for details of the final scheme.

EA76 Development of “old Billy” scheme

The Committee gave further consideration to the development of the scheme:

Recommended,
That a design be developed for the introduction of information sign on the A57 Manchester Road to be sited in the grass verge.

EA77 Friends of Woolston Park – improvement and maintenance project

The Committee gave consideration to the improvement and maintenance project proposed by the Group:

- Hedges/hawthorn/greenery around the pond area, although delightful, had of course regrown during the 12 months since the pond project was carried out. Now badly in need of cutting back...this will consequently need to be done regularly in future in order to allow park user access to the pond area (probably including youngsters taking part in pond dipping exercises and other school activities).
- Replanting of area around the Ranger Cabin (trees were removed from here during recent thinning operations as roots were growing underneath the cabin). This will include some hedging, which will require ongoing maintenance.
- Hedges around the Jubilee Garden require regular cutting in order to keep them tidy - a really tough job if done manually.
- The Community Garden, set up by the Warrington New Town Development Corporation Rangers many years ago, is in a woeful state. This is a raised garden area designed for use by disabled people. The overgrowth needs to be cut back, exposing the raised beds which can then be recultivated and allow access. As well as FOWP "regulars" there are some youngsters who are interested in this recultivation work.

These projects can be facilitated by the use of a heavy duty brush cutter with some accessories. Following the advice of the Borough Council's Environment Services Area Manager, this equipment and required Health and Safety equipment has been costed. Training in the use of the equipment and its maintenance will be provided at no cost by a Ranger.

The total cost of equipment and necessary safety equipment (faceguards, ear defenders is about £800. The total cost of labour would be nil as there are volunteers willing to be trained to do the work. The cost of materials was estimated to be £200 for the maintenance project:

Recommended,

That approval to the funding of the project.

EA78 Battery Lane Allotment Site – inspection of plots

The Committee noted that a date was to be agreed for the inspection of plots to be carried out early in the New Year.

EA79 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.

EA80 Business raised by members

There were no matters to report.

Chairman.....