

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 26 FEBRUARY 2020

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors M Creaghan, B Maher, S Rydzkowski, P Wright

EA79 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA80 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors M Creaghan, B Maher, S Rydzkowski and P Wright.

EA81 Minutes

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EA82 Matters of report from previous minutes

No matters to report.

EA83 Nuisance caused by Lesser Black-backed gulls

No matters to report.

EA84 Supporting use of the Royal British Legion poppy emblem on street lampposts

Further to minute EA58 27 November 2019, the Clerk reported on the continued support of the scheme having regard to the resources available to the Council. Information had been provided by the Borough Council on their requirements for the use of street lampposts. It was understood that applications could be considered direct from groups, subject to the usual conditions being met, including the provision of public liability insurance:

Recommended,
That having regard to the resources available to the Council, support be offered to the group of volunteers in making an application to the Borough Council if they intend to continue with the scheme.

EA85 Parish Path Warden Scheme

Councillor Nowell reported on matters relating to public footpaths and on matters that had been reported to the Borough Council:

- New Cut Canal towpath
 - path to be resurfaced from New Cut Lane in a westerly direction for approximately 350 metres. A request had been made for information on work to the length of the path in Woolston from New Cut Lane to the bridge.
 - Wire mesh placed over rocks adjacent to path alongside Omega scaffolding premises.

Recommended,
That the report be noted.

EA86 Woolston Playing Fields and Hillock Lane Amenity Area - liaison with the Borough Council

Representatives of Woolston Rovers ARLFC attended the meeting and requested the support of the Council in getting a solution to the flooding of the pitches. They were very concerned at the hazard to users of the playing fields, especially children, caused by the area of deep water at the western end of the field. Given the expected time to remedy this issue they considered that, as a matter of urgency, the Borough Council should review the situation and consider what warning signage and other action is needed eg Deep Water signs, life belt rings.

Further to minute C90 Borough Council business – 15 January 2020, the Clerk reported the responses received from the Borough Council on matters raised relating to the playing fields:

- The flooding issue at Hillock Lane / Woolston Park is a priority in the Warrington BC Playing Pitch Strategy. We are currently preparing a bid for funding from Warrington BC to carry out a feasibility study to identify a long-term solution to the flooding issue at Hillock Lane / Woolston Park. This investigation will enable the root cause to be identified and a solution put in place. When there was a timescale for the investigation, a further update would be provided.
- Officers are preparing a bid for Borough Council funding to carry out a feasibility study of the Woolston Park / Hillock Lane sports pitches to establish a solution to the flooding issues on site. In addition, the Football Association (FA) have been commissioned to undertake a site assessment which will link into their FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). We will use the information from these reports to support grant funding bids to deliver improvements across the site. The location is a priority in the Warrington Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) which strengthens any bid for grant funding to contribute to the project. The first step is to address the flooding issue which as it currently stands would prevent the wider investment required to develop the site. The Football Foundation and Rugby League World Cup (RLWC 2021) have agreed in principle to support a sports pitch drainage scheme and a 3G AGP Development.

Following consideration of the representations and the responses from the Borough Council, it was

Recommended,
That

1. the Council support the request for urgent action to be taken to provide for the safety of users at the playing fields following the recent severe flooding and Borough Councillor McCarthy's offer, on behalf of the Ward Councillors and parish council, to request the Borough Council that this be investigated be accepted;
2. the Borough Council be requested to provide, from the relevant officers, a report on the short-term action to improve safety and to be kept advised on progress relating to the long-term development of the playing fields.

EA87 Speed control measures

The Chairman reported that at the recent liaison meeting with parish councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner had given support for the use of average speed control monitoring. This would probably be restricted to use on principal roads.

It was noted that no further information had been received from the Borough Council on speed control measures.

Councillor McCarthy reported on a meeting held with Borough Council officers and school representatives at the Kings Leadership Academy to review road safety in the area. Support had been given to the introduction of further waiting restrictions to prevent inconsiderate parking and other measures to improve road safety.

Members expressed their concern at the speed of vehicles on Hillock Lane and supported consideration being given to the introduction of a 20 MPH limit.

EA88 Kings Leadership Academy – shared use of car park

No matters to report.

EA89 “Old Billy” scheme – draft design

Response awaited from the Borough Council to the draft of the design for the “Old Billy” sign.

EA90 Battery Lane Allotment site - inspection of plots

The Committee noted that the independent annual inspection of plots planned for February had been postponed because of the wet weather. A new date was to be arranged.

EA91 Business raised by Council members

No matters to report.

Chairman.....