

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 26 JULY 2017

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)
Councillors: A Hill, A McCarthy, D Nowell, S Rydzkowski, P Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillor D Hill, M Creaghan, J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, B Maher

EA12 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest
Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

EA13 Minutes

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EA14 Development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct

There were no matters to report.

EA15 Parish Path Warden scheme

Councillor Nowell reported and the Committee noted that:
Public Footpath 12 at Nicol Avenue was blocked because of vegetation. The issue had been reported to the Public Rights of Way Officer.
Comment had been made to the Environment Agency on the Information Boards proposals made by the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group.

EA16 Environmental Crime

The Committee considered making a request to the Borough Council for a presentation to be made on the work of the Environmental Crime Unit:

Recommended,
That an invitation be made to attend the meeting of the Council in September 2017.

EA17 Woolston Playing Fields – management arrangements 2017-18

The Committee considered the continuation of the management arrangements for public use of the playing fields:

Recommended,
That approval be given to the continuation of the current arrangements with Warrington BC for the management of public use of Woolston Playing Fields for 2017-18.

EA18 Hillock Lane Amenity Area – development of improvement scheme

The Committee gave consideration to the development of an improvement scheme for the amenity area:

Recommended,

That this matter be considered at the September meeting of the Committee.

EA19 Hillock Lane Amenity Area – security of car park entrance

The Clerk reported on an attempted unauthorised access to the car park. At present the entrance was secured by means of a lockable raised barrier. Action had been taken by employees of the Kings Leadership Academy and the public to help prevent the access:

Recommended,

That advice be requested from the police on measures to improve the security of the entrance.

EA20 Somerset Way at entrance to Woolston Park – provision of fencing

Councillor McCarthy reported that the Borough Council had been asked to prioritise the introduction of no waiting restrictions on Somerset Way from the junction with Hillock Lane to remove the problem of parked vehicles obstructing the road adjacent to the park entrance. It was also intended to place no waiting restrictions on the access road to the park.

Details had been provided to Councillor McCarthy on the cost estimated by the Borough Council for the provision of fencing to protect the grassed area adjacent to and opposite the park entrance from parked cars; these ranged from £5,500 to £7,500. The officers had been requested to provide a low cost scheme eg by the use of plastic posts as used by the Borough Council in grass verges in other areas:

Recommended,

That

1. Councillor McCarthy be thanked for his report;
2. support be given for the proposed no waiting restrictions and the development of a low cost scheme to protect the grassed areas.

EA21 Kings Leadership Academy – shared use of car park

There were no matters to report.

EA22 “Old Billy” scheme – draft design

The Clerk submitted a draft design for the sign to be placed in the highway relating to “Old Billy”:

Recommended,

That the draft design be circulated to all members for their comments.

EA23 Battery Lane Allotment Site
– maintenance of plots

The Clerk reported further to minute EA9 21 June 2017 on action following a request made for the Council to consider extenuating circumstances relating to the condition of the plot:

Recommended,

That a further report be made to the September meeting of the Committee.

– maintenance of Battery Lane and track to allotment site

The Committee noted that the Borough Council had supplied the Allotment Association with additional stone to help maintain the track leading to the site from Battery Lane. The Public Rights of Way Officer had undertaken to inform the Council when maintenance work to the surface of Battery Lane from Riversdale towards the river would commence:

Recommended,

That the report be noted.

EA24 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. Councillor Nowell reported on items discussed at the last meeting of the Group:

1. Mr I Johnson had resigned from the positions of chairman and secretary. A temporary appointment of secretary had been made until the meeting on 25 September 2017;
2. The Environment Services Area Manager from the Borough Council had reported to the Group on the insurance cover provided for volunteers when undertaking work. In view of this information it would seem that the £50 contribution made by both this council and the Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council was not required. Councillor Nowell suggested that the Council agree to the grant being reallocated to other work by the Group.

Mr K Price, Treasurer of the Group, attended the meeting and was invited to provide further information on the items reported. He advised that the Borough Council had been asked to confirm in writing the insurance provision made for volunteers; the response would be considered at the September meeting of the Group. Dependant on the response, the grant made of £50 could be refunded to the Council.

Mr Price reported that the Group had considered the provision of seating at two locations along the canal towpath adjacent to the open spaces at Nottingham Close and Timberscombe Gardens. The land was in the ownership of the Borough Council and an approach was to be made to the Environment Agency on assistance with funding given their recent works in the area:

Recommended,

That

1. Councillor Nowell be thanked for his report;
2. Mr Price be thanked for the information provided;
3. the issue relating to the grant made be considered at the October meeting of the Committee when the decision of the Group is known on provision of insurance. In the

event of the grant made not being required, consideration be given to the reallocation of this to other activities by the Group.

4. support be given to the two locations suggested for the provision of public seating and the outcome of discussions by the Group with the Borough Council and the Environment Agency be awaited.

EA25 Business raised by members

There were no matters to report.

Chairman.....