



Meeting (No) **Community & Environment Committee (11)**
 Time & Date **6pm, 1 March 2022**
 Place **Neston Town Hall**
 Document **Draft Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies, Griffiths, Hinks, Kynaston and Wastell

In attendance: Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager), CWaC Cllr Millar and 12 residents.

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public	
135	Questions and comments from residents
a	Residents raised concerns about both planning applications detailed in agenda item 138.
b	Residents requested information about the process to report traffic incidents and access CCTV footage. The residents were provided with details of local police surgeries.
Eleven residents left the meeting.	
136	Apologies for absence
	There were no apologies for absence. The absence of Cllrs Jackson and Samuel was noted.
137	Declarations of Interest
	Cllr Kynaston declared non-pecuniary interests in item 147a (community event donations) by virtue of being associated with Friends of West Vale Park and item 138a by virtue of being the friend of a resident living in the Sandy Lane area. Cllr Wastell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 147a (community event donations) by virtue of being a member of Friends of West Vale Park.
138	Planning applications
	It was agreed by common consent to consider items 138a and 138b in reverse order.
b	The Committee reviewed planning application 22/00226/FUL , land at Raby Park Road, Neston – erection of three dwellings and alterations to existing houses to allow extension to existing access driveway. RESOLVED to respond to the Planning Authority that Neston Town Council is in agreement with many of the concerns raised by local residents and strongly objects to this application on the following grounds: <u>Drainage and sewerage</u> – the Town Council is seriously concerned about current capacity because discharge reports indicate that the system is already under pressure and it should be noted that during periods of prolonged rainfall the Sytchcroft manhole lifts and floods. Policy NNH1 of the Neston Neighbourhood Plan requires that a new development must be adequately serviced by the existing infrastructure and utilities networks or it must be possible to increase capacity to accommodate the development. The Town Council seeks assurance that the infrastructure has the capacity to deal with this additional new build.
Chairman’s initials and date:	

	<p><u>Environmental</u> – this site is an ancient orchard habitat with heritage significance and the Town Council is very concerned about the potential loss of biodiversity. The Biodiversity Report does not appear to have investigated use of the orchard by smaller mammals such as hedgehogs, voles and shrews, and this location is well known locally as a feeding site for bats.</p> <p><u>Scale and design</u> – The Town Council does not consider the proposed design to be appropriate in scale and design to its local context and adjacent properties, and as such the application fails to comply with Policy NNH1 of the Neston Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>Access</u> – the issue of refuse collection service via a private road has not been addressed.</p> <p><u>Housing type</u> – Policy NNH2 of the Neston Neighbourhood Plan emphasises the need for smaller more affordable houses that allow households to stay or move into the area and enable older people to downsize and remain in the area. The houses on the proposed development are either three- or four-bedroom properties which will not address the need for smaller more affordable homes.</p>
One resident left the meeting.	
a	<p>The Committee reviewed planning application 21/05081/FUL, 9 Sandy Lane, Little Neston – demolition of existing detached dwelling and garage and erection of a replacement two storey detached dwelling and garage.</p> <p>RESOLVED to respond to the Planning Authority that Neston Town Council objects to this application on the grounds that the proposed development is out of character and proportion with other properties on this traditional village lane and that building will be forward of the building line. In addition, there is a good deal of concern locally about blocking of a pre-existing right of way as well as concern about the fact that the location of the proposed garage appears to be outside of the applicant's ownership. The Town Council requests these concerns of local residents be taken into account and investigated fully.</p>
CWaC Cllr Millar left the meeting.	
139	Minutes of the last meeting
	RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 01.02.22. The Chair signed the minutes.
140	Governance & Operations Manager's report
	<p>The Committee received the Governance & Operations Manager's report and noted in particular:</p> <p><u>Servicing mosquito traps</u> The courier cost for sending the traps to be serviced was confirmed as £111.89+VAT.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> The final cost of the Raby Park Road perimeter fence repairs totalled £125.</p> <p><u>Donations</u> A meeting was being arranged with the Neston branch of the Royal British Legion to discuss any support required for the 2022 Remembrance parade.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights 2021</u> The cost of electricity for the 2021 Christmas lights was £360.99+VAT.</p>
141	Risk management
	RESOLVED to approve the Community & Environment Committee's risk assessment. The Chair signed the risk management action plan.
Chairman's initials and date:	

142	Allotments
a	RESOLVED that allotment rent would increase by 3% for the financial year 2023/24.
b	RESOLVED to continue the online tenancy renewal system for 2022 at an annual cost of £80+VAT (budget 4180 allotment expenditure).
c	RESOLVED to update the Allotments Policy as detailed in meeting paper CE11/142c.
143	Mosquito control
a	It was noted that no discussions had taken place with the RSPB regarding marsh access. It was agreed that discussions with the RSPB in relation to marsh access would not be progressed by the C&E Committee.
b	<u>Pool Creation</u> The Committee considered a Marsh Working Group recommendation and RESOLVED that NTC agreed in principle to support the project to create an additional pool and associated dredging in Parkgate during summer 2022, with the level of financial contribution to be agreed once costings were made available.
c	<u>Dredging Programme</u> The Committee considered a Marsh Working Group recommendation and RESOLVED that a rolling programme of dredging works would be implemented, with Parkgate and Quayside being dredged on alternate years, and that dredging requirements would be considered routinely as part of the annual budget setting process in order to facilitate this schedule.
144	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
	The Chair confirmed that she was currently in discussion with a number of local organisations and recommendations would be made to the next meeting.
145	Ladies Day
a	RESOLVED to purchase a traffic management scheme for the 2022 Ladies Day parade at a cost of £1,395+VAT. Purchase to be made in financial year 2022/23 from budget 4362.
b	RESOLVED to purchase Chester Road car park temporary closure signs for the 2022 Ladies Day/fair at a maximum cost of £250+VAT & delivery. Purchase to be made in financial year 2022/23 from budget 4362.
146	Confirmation of receipt of grant funding
	It was noted that that, following a recommendation made by the internal auditor, all future recipients of NTC grants would be required to send an email/letter confirming receipt of grant funds.
147	Community event donations
a	<u>West Vale Park Family Fun Day 2022</u> The Committee considered a costed project outline (meeting paper CE11/147a). RESOLVED to approve a donation of £1,600 to Friends of West Vale Park for the Family Fun Day 2022.
b	<u>Neston Village Fair 2022</u> The Committee considered a costed project outline (meeting paper CE11/147b). RESOLVED to approve a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee for the Neston Village Fair 2022.
Chairman's initials and date:	

148	Neston Village Fair 2022
a	RESOLVED to have a stall at the Village Fair.
b	RESOLVED to form a task and finish group to look at options for a theme for the 2022 stall, the preparation needed and any budget required and then make a recommendation to the 12 April C&E meeting. Cllrs Marple, Kynaston and Wastell were appointed to the group and it was agreed to email all other councillors to request additional members.
149	Grants Policy/defibrillators
a	RESOLVED to update the Grants Policy as detailed in meeting paper CE11/149a in order to incorporate acceptance of applications from businesses for the specific purpose of purchasing and maintaining defibrillators.
b	RESOLVED to approve a defibrillator grant application form.
c	The Committee decided that it was important to raise awareness of the inventory of defibrillators in order to encourage organisations that are not on the current list to add their details thereby ensuring the inventory is as comprehensive as possible. As well as utilising all available cost-free sources of publicity, the Committee RESOLVED to raise awareness by means of an AMA editorial at a cost of £65+VAT from budget 4360 (community grants).
150	Date of next meeting
	The date of the next meeting was noted as 12 April 2022 at 6pm.
151	Exclusion of the Press and Public
	RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item (paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs of any particular person).
PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public	
152	Contract for the provision and maintenance of floral arrangements
	RESOLVED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the three-year contract commencing 01.10.22 for the provision and maintenance of floral arrangements as detailed in meeting paper 152, and • conduct with the Contractor a joint review prior to 01.10.23 and then to confirm term and fees for the remainder of the contract by means of a contract addendum.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed _____ Date _____