



Meeting (No) **Community & Environment Committee (10)**
Time & Date **6pm, 1st February 2022**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Cllr Marple (Chair), Davies, Griffiths, Hinks, Kynaston and Smith

In attendance: CWaC Cllr Barker, Miss A Duncan (G&O Manager) and Cllr Hudspeth

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

114 Questions and comments from residents

There were no questions or comments from residents.

115 Apologies for absence

The Committee received apologies from Cllr Wastell (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reason for absence.

The absence of Cllrs Jackson and Samuel was noted.

116 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kynaston declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 123a (community donations) by virtue of being a member of the Female Society.

117 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 07.12.21. The Chair signed the minutes.

118 Marsh Working Group

- a Notes of the Marsh Working Group meeting held on 18.01.22 were considered.

In order to provide background and context, the G&O Manager confirmed that in July 2020 the Places Committee had decided to investigate, in conjunction with the Marsh Working Group and other partners, options for the creation of an environmentally responsible co-ordinated plan for mosquito control based on the concept of Open Marsh Water Management. The G&O Manager went on to explain that this specific committee decision had directed the efforts of the Marsh Working Group for the ensuing 18 months and resulted in the current recommendations relating to traps, pool creation and a dredging programme.

The Committee decided that they wanted to enter into discussions with the RSPB about allowing greater public access to the marshes and that decisions about pool creation and dredging were contingent on the outcome of these discussions.

- b Traps

RESOLVED to service three traps prior to the start of the 2022 monitoring season at a cost of £70+VAT and shipping per trap plus additional cost for any replacement parts required.

- c Pool Creation

Item 118c (a potential project to create an additional pool) was deferred.

- d Dredging Programme

Item 118d (ongoing dredging of Parkgate and Quayside) was deferred.

CWaC Cllr Barker left the meeting.

Chairman's initials and date:

BMM 1/3/22

119 Governance & Operations Manager's report

The Committee received the Governance & Operations Manager's report and noted in particular:

Jubilee expenditure

700 metres of Jubilee bunting and a Jubilee flag had been purchased as per minute 103 at a total cost of £622.79+VAT (budget 4361).

Christmas lights

The installation contractor's invoice had included, as expected, an additional cost of £650 for reinstatement of the Parkgate tree following storm damage. The contractor had not charged for the lights that needed replacing due to vandalism.

Allotments

Five fruit bushes and five fruit trees had been purchased as per minute 104 at a total cost of £190.04+VAT.

A perimeter fence repair was being arranged at the Raby Park Road site at a cost of £150.

Allotment delegated authority up to £500 per financial year had been provided by R&P Committee on 08/06/21. The annual total of allotment expenditure carried out under delegated authority during 21/22 amounted to £410.19:

- Strimming of two vacant overgrown plots at the Marshlands Road site and marking out as half plots (£150)
- Replacement marine grade padlock (£50.19)
- Strimming of an overgrown plot at the Raby Park Road site (£60)
- Security repair to the perimeter fence of the Raby Park Road site (£150).

Floral maintenance

An Amberol self-watering hanging basket and heavy-duty chain had been purchased as per minute 106 at a cost of £44+VAT and delivery. This was £1.50 higher than agreed due to a price increase (increase approved retrospectively – minute 120b).

120 Committee Budget

- a The Committee considered the budget/EMRs. No amendments were made.
- b **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve the additional cost of £1.50 for the purchase of an Amberol self-watering hanging basket and bracket (purchase approved 07/12/21, minute 106a).

121 Risk Management

The Committee considered the Community & Environment Committee risk assessment and made three amendments:

sheet 2, ref 53 (dumping/hazardous substances) – change impact to high,

sheet 7, ref 178 (stock control) – change impact to low,

sheet 10, ref 0 (inappropriate funding applications) – change impact to medium.

122 Grants

- a An update on the status of current grant awards was noted.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve interim accounts totalling £2,100 in relation to the grant award of £4,500 to Hip & Harmony.
- c **RESOLVED** to approve a grant award amendment request from Hip & Harmony for the remaining £2,400 of the original £4,500 grant.

Chairman's initials and date:

Bmm 1/3/22

- d **RESOLVED** to approve end of grant accounts for the grant award of £2,000 to Parkgatefest.

Cllr Kynaston declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 123a (community event donations) by virtue of being associated with Friends of West Vale Park.

123 Donations

- a **RESOLVED** to offer the opportunity for three community groups to submit costed project plans for consideration and approval as per the Community Event Donations Policy:

- Neston Village Fair 2022 (Neston Village Fair Committee) £1,700
- Ladies Day 2022 entertainment (Hip & Harmony) £3,600
- Christmas Lights 2022 switch-on event (Hip & Harmony) £7,600
- West Vale Family Fun Day 2022 (Friends of West Vale Park) £1,600.

Payments to be made from budget 4363 (community event donations).

It was noted that there was an earmarked reserve (EMR 329) of £1,000 to provide publicity materials for the Neston Music Festival 2022.

RESOLVED to pay road closure costs for Remembrance Sunday 2022 from budget 4363 (community event donations).

- b The Committee received a breakdown of expenditure for the 2021 Christmas lights switch-on event.
- c **RESOLVED** to approve receipts to the value of £1,030.62 from Hip & Harmony in relation to the donation provided to support the creation of a new performing arts venue.

124 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

- a An oral update was received from the Jubilee Task & Finish Group. It was reported that no responses had been received from residents but contact had been made with some community groups with the aim of ensuring a variety of events across the four-day period. Further details and options would be explored and agreed at the next Community & Environment Committee meeting.
- b An oral update was received from the Jubilee Task & Finish Group on suggested locations for tree planting as part of The Queen's Green Canopy project. It was noted that two suggestions had been received from residents. One of the suggested areas was private land and could not be progressed. The second suggestion was being investigated and costed by the Task & Finish Group and their findings, along with details of other possible options, would be reported to the next Community & Environment Committee for consideration.
- c **RESOLVED** that all applications to the Town Council's Jubilee fund should be by means of a letter/email providing an outline of the event and a breakdown of costs and that applications would be considered at the next meeting of the Community & Environment Committee.
- d It was noted that the possibility of holding a market on 3 June was being investigated.
- e **RESOLVED** to approve installation of the Jubilee bunting in May 2022 by the existing contractor at a maximum cost of £2,167+VAT from budget 4361 (Ladies Day bunting). Expenditure would be from the 22/23 budget.

Chairman's initials and date:

Bmm 1/3/22

125 Transport Sub-committee

The Committee received minutes of the Transport Sub-committee meeting held on 11.01.22.

126 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee received notes of the Neston Looking Better Group meetings held on 16.09.21 and 02.12.21.

127 Planning application

The Committee reviewed planning application [21/04782/FUL](#), 63 Badger Bait, Little Neston – change of use from betting shop to hot food takeaway and installation of new extract ventilation to roof level, alteration to existing shopfront to relocate entrance door to the side elevation including formation of a new disabled access ramp, new roller shutter door and widening of existing opening to the left hand side to form a new bin store.

RESOLVED to send a response to the Planning Authority stating that Neston Town Council welcomes in principle the development of this site but is concerned about the potential impact on local residents (Neston Neighbourhood Plan Retail Policy NNR3). Concern has been expressed about the potential for increased evening noise and the Town Council requests that the opening hours of any new business at this location should be consistent with existing opening hours in the area. There needs to be careful attention given to controlling potential increased parking and traffic in the area. A significant concern is traffic stopping on the corner and the Town Council recommends double yellow lines to improve safety for road users and pedestrians.

128 Neighbourhood Plan Task & Finish Group

- a An oral update was received. Whilst waiting for a government decision on changes to planning regulations, the Task & Finish Group had decided to focus on the Neston Heritage List.
- b The Committee received a report on progress towards updating the Neston Heritage List (report CE10/128b).

RESOLVED to:

- undertake a review of the Neston Heritage List as detailed in report CE10/128b.
- to carry out a community consultation as part of the review at a maximum cost of £150 from budget 4208 (environmental improvements).

129 Life for a Life Task & Finish Group

The Committee received an oral update from the Life for a Life Task & Finish Group and noted that discussions were ongoing. The potential for planting along a stretch of the Wirral Way was also being investigated.

130 Defibrillators – councillor proposal

The Committee considered report CE10/130 – a councillor proposal relating to defibrillators.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) encourage the procurement of defibrillators in areas of the town where there are none e.g., West Vale;
- (ii) amend the current grants and donations policy to include acceptance of applications from businesses for the specific purpose of purchasing a

Chairman's initials and date:

BMM 1/3/22

defibrillator and for maintenance of their defibrillator (cost to be met from budget 4360 community grants);

- (iii) approve acceptance of applications for replacement pads and batteries, and any other maintenance issues needing to be addressed, from any holder (business or other) of a defibrillator within the NTC area (cost to be met from budget 4360 community grants);
- (iv) be responsible for the inventory and awareness of the condition of each defibrillator and public awareness and promotion of these;
- (v) consider an increase in the Council's precept going forward to cover this contingency.

131 Benches

- a It was noted that the memorial bench in St Thomas' churchyard had been repaired and reinstated at a cost of £275 from budget 4208 (environmental improvements).
- b The repair work was considered to be of a very good standard. Given the age of the bench, however, the Committee agreed that the overall condition of the bench should be recorded as acceptable.
- c No further action was considered necessary.

132 Date of next meeting

- a The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 12 April 2022 at 6pm.
- b **RESOLVED** to hold an additional Community and Environment Committee meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 3.25 (a meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours) for the duration of the meeting.

Cllr Hudspeth left the meeting.

133 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that 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 involved 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

134 Contract for the provision & maintenance of floral arrangements

The Committee considered three quotations for the provision/maintenance of floral arrangements.

RESOLVED to appoint PDQ for a three-year contract commencing 01.10.22 at an annual cost of £25,152+VAT per year, to be reviewed at the end of year one.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed Brenda M. Marple Date 1/3/22