



*Meeting (No)* **Community & Environment Committee (4)**  
*Time & Date* **6pm, 20 July 2021**  
*Place* **Neston Town Hall**  
*Document* **Minutes**

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

**In attendance:** Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager), Cllr Smith and one resident.

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

### **37 Questions and comments from residents**

There were no questions or comments.

### **38 Apologies for absence**

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

The absence of Cllr Jackson was noted.

### **39 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **40 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 01.06.21 and 15.06.21. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **41 Governance & Operations Manager's report**

The Committee received the G&O Manager's report and noted in particular that three quotation requests had been sent for removal/reinstatement of the bike pump (minute 18, 01.06.21) and that two quotations had been received. P&A Benbow Ltd was selected to remove/reinstate the pump at a cost of £275+VAT (this was the least expensive quotation).

### **42 Budget**

- a The budget was considered and no alterations were made.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve the addition of £4,013 to EMR 338 (Christmas lights) and £8,051 to EMR 339 (grants).

### **43 Representation on external bodies (environmental impact)**

It was agreed that Cllr Hinks would report to the next meeting on the Wirral Environmental Network and Neston Earth Group and that Cllr Marple would report back on the Coalition for Climate Change.

### **44 Proposed speed limit changes**

The Committee received information from Highways relating to speed limit changes and noted that this information had been considered by the Transport Sub-committee.

**RESOLVED** to reiterate to Highways the points raised previously, stressing that the committee was not happy with the proposals, that there was a need for a more holistic approach, and requesting that a Highways representative meet with the Transport Sub-committee to discuss further.

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Cllr Samuel left the meeting.

#### 45 Grants

- a An update on the current status of grant awards was received.
- b The Committee received report CE4/45b and noted that two grant recipients had failed to provide end of grant accounts, despite numerous reminders. The two grant awards were confirmed as:
  - Heath Lane Nurseries – grant of £500 awarded on 19.02.19 for a community gardening for health and wellbeing project;
  - Neston Swimming & Water Polo Club – grant of £500 awarded on 11.06.19 towards the cost of marketing support for the club.

It was reported that the G&O Manager had written to both Heath Lane Nurseries and Neston Swimming & Water Polo Club on 2 July 2021. The letters stated that, given the length of time that had elapsed and the lack of contact, Neston Town Council would not consider any future grant applications from either organisation.

**RESOLVED** to agree with the action that had been taken and confirm approval of the letter of 2 July.

**RESOLVED** that any future communication from Heath Lane Nurseries or Neston Swimming & Water Polo Club in relation to their grant awards (including submission of accounts or explanation for the delay) must be considered and approved by committee prior to consideration of any future grant applications from these organisations.

- c **RESOLVED** to allow Wirral Way Junior Parkrun to retain the grant underspend of £135.05 to purchase replacement defibrillator pads when the current pads reach their expiry date.
- d **RESOLVED** to approve a request from ParkgateFest to move their current grant project end date to July 2022.

#### 46 AMA (Neston Life app) "Neston Independents" local business support project

The Committee considered report CE4/46 and that **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Town Council would be the named applicant for the CWaC members' budget funding application of £1,500;
- (ii) the Town Council would provide a project grant of £1,500 to AboutMyArea/ Neston Life upon receipt of the members' budget funding from CWaC.

#### 47 Local Plan conversation 2021

**RESOLVED** to establish a task and finish group to formulate a draft consultation response for consideration at an additional committee meeting to be held before 15 September. Cllrs Marple, Hinks and Griffiths were appointed to the group.

#### 48 Community events

- a **RESOLVED** to offer a donation of £7,000 from budget 4363 (community event donations) to Hip & Harmony to organise a Christmas lights switch-on event. The £7,000 to include the cost of any road closures. Project outline to be submitted for agreement at a future meeting.
- b The Committee considered Hip & Harmony's suggestion about co-ordinating existing and new community events. The Committee agreed to thank Hip & Harmony for this suggestion which would be borne in mind for future planning once the various organisers of existing events had confirmed their intentions for the coming year.

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## 49 Allotments

- a The Committee received an update on current allotment-related matters (report CE4/49a).
- b It was noted that allotment-related total expenditure of £219 net had been approved under delegated authority during the current financial year.
- c **RESOLVED** to approve retrospectively a 12 month contract with CWaC at an annual cost of £200+VAT from budget 4180 (allotment expenditure) for the provision of vermin monitoring and control at the Raby Park Road allotment site. Contract commenced on 24.06.21.
- d **RESOLVED** to provide delegated authority for the G&O Manager to purchase a replacement padlock & 27 keys for the Raby Park Road site at a maximum cost of £180.
- e **RESOLVED** to provide delegated authority for the G&O Manager to arrange for security repairs to the fencing at Raby Park Road site as outlined in report CE4/49.

## 50 Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate

Cllr Wastell outlined a possible CWaC project to make improvements to the Old Baths Car Park to create bird watching facilities and increase biodiversity at this location.

## 51 Christmas lights task & finish group

- a The Committee received an oral update about the draft specification and noted that the group was recommending not installing lamppost decorations in Market Square and Little Neston but instead concentrating on lighting trees at these locations. Cost-effective options for lighting the Town Hall had also been considered which would dispense with the need for a cherry picker. The group also recommended that contractors be asked to quote for two possible options for Parkgate. In addition, the group suggested that the Committee might like to consider engaging with local businesses early in 2022 to work collaboratively on a plan for Christmas 2022.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve the draft specification for the provision of Christmas lights in 2021. Quotations to be sought from three contractors and considered at a meeting in late August/early September.

It was agreed that Gordale Garden Centre should be approached to ask if they would be willing to supply and install the internal Town Hall Christmas lights with appropriate acknowledgement being displayed alongside the lights.

Cllr Marple agreed to liaise with the Parkgate Society about any possible alterations to the Parkgate Christmas lights.

- c **RESOLVED** that the Council Manager should inform CWaC in writing that Neston Town Council would assume responsibility for provision of High Street Christmas lights from 2022 onwards on the condition that:
  - the lights that are currently installed are transferred to Neston Town Council;
  - CWaC can confirm that the current potential double-taxation issue has been resolved;
  - CWaC confirm the replacement value of the lights and current installation cost;
  - notification by CWaC of transfer must be received no later than 30 September to allow time for appropriate provision to be made within the precept request.

## 52 Memorial bench – St Thomas' Church

- a It was noted that the damaged bench removed from the churchyard was beyond repair and that it was the practice of the Town Council to replace with recycled plastic rather than oak.

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- b It was agreed to investigate whether the damaged bench located in the Town Hall yard was repairable. If repairable, quotations to be considered at a future meeting. If not repairable, it was agreed to ask Rev'd Dawson whether the preference would be replacement with a recycled plastic bench to which an inscription plaque could be attached, or to remove the fixings and make good the ground where the former bench was located.

### **53 Railway improvements**

**RESOLVED** to work collaboratively with the Community Rail Officer (Flintshire County Council) and Neston High School to make improvements/additions to the murals on the railway platforms and approach tunnel. Any potential costs to be approved by committee in advance.

### **54 Transport Sub-committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13.07.21 were noted.

### **55 Date of next meeting**

- a The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 12 October 2021 at 6pm.
- b **RESOLVED** to hold an additional committee meeting at 10am on Thursday 29 July 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Brenda M. Marple Date 29/7/21