



Meeting (No) **Extraordinary meeting of the Community & Environment Committee (8)**
Time & Date **9.30am, 21 October 2021**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Hinks and Kynaston

In attendance: Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager) and Cllr Smith

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

90 Questions and comments from residents

The G&O Manager read out a letter dated 20/10/21 from a resident in relation to agenda item 93. The letter is reproduced below.

You will agree that it is the obligation of any public official, whether elected or appointed to protect the public finances by avoiding expenditure that is wasteful or unnecessary. In my judgement the payment, as stated in Report CEB93, of £600+VAT, not £500+VAT as mentioned in the Agenda for the replacement of this pump would be just such.

Report CEB 93 is sketchy and inadequate to justify such expenditure. It quotes no empirical evidence to show that this pump is either needed or, if it is, whether the primary usage is by users who do not inhabit your Council's area. No evidence is set out of the current usage of these pumps. I am a frequent visitor to The Parade, and I have yet to see anyone using the pump, other than one person who allowed her dog to urinate against it.

The pump at The Cross is similarly otiose.

It is not your Council's proper function to provide facilities for a powerful and fashionable lobby such as the cycling one, most of whom seem to live outside the Neston area. You will recall that the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region used this principle to justify removing the rebate from Cheshire residents who navigate the Mersey Tunnels using a fast-tag.

I urge your committee to reject this irresponsible proposal. Not to do so would lead to the expenditure being challenged in the audit process and awkward questions at the Town Meeting.

Please place this letter before the committee.

The Chair acknowledged the comments made by the resident and agreed that it was important to avoid wasteful or unnecessary expenditure. The Chair confirmed that different options, one of which was removal of the bike pump, had been considered in detail at previous meetings. The Chair also confirmed that the CWaC Councillor for Parkgate Ward had expressed that he was in favour of reinstating the bike pump.

91 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Samuel (personal) and Wastell (personal).

RESOLVED to accept the reasons for absence.

The absence of Cllrs Davies, Griffiths and Jackson was noted.

92 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

Chairman's initials and date:

BMM 7/12/21

93 Bike pump at Parkgate Parade

The Committee considered report CE8/93 along with the points made by a resident as detailed in minute 90.

It was noted that a maximum project budget of £600+VAT had been approved previously for repair and removal/reinstatement but that the bike pump had subsequently been found to be beyond repair. The Committee noted that the cost of replacement with an ex-display model would be £500, which would increase the overall project cost to £870.69+VAT (£340 to remove/reinstate, £500 for purchase of replacement and £30.69 packaging costs).

The Committee concluded that the bike pump was a positive addition to The Parade because it supported sustainable and active travel and it also supported tourism which in turn benefited local businesses.

RESOLVED to purchase a Public Bike Pump (ex-display model with slight cosmetic wear) from Cyclehoop at a cost of £500+VAT.

94 Date of next meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 7 December 2021 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45am.

Signed Brenda M. Morple Date 7/12/21