



*Meeting (No)*     **Community & Environment Committee (9)**  
*Time & Date*     **6pm, 7 December 2021**  
*Place*             **Neston Town Hall**  
*Document*        **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies (from item 100), Hinks, Kynaston, Smith and Wastell

**In attendance:** Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager)

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

**95 Questions and comments from residents**

There were no questions or comments from residents.

**96 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Griffiths (personal) and Cllr Samuel (personal).

**RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence.

The absence of Cllr Jackson was noted.

**97 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**98 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 12.10.21 and 21.10.21. The Chair signed the minutes.

**99 Governance & Operations Manager's report**

The Governance & Operations Manager's report was received and it was noted in particular:

Town Hall Christmas lights (minute 81a, 12/10/21)

Total cost was £450.29+VAT.

Parkgate bike pump (minute 93, 21/10/21)

Cost of replacement was £470+VAT.

Parkgate Christmas tree

The repair cost of the storm damaged tree was awaited and would be reported to the next meeting.

High Street Christmas lights

CWaC would take a decision on 16.12.21 in respect of the special expense charge for Christmas lights should Neston Town Council take responsibility for these lights from 2022.

Neston Looking Better Group

The NLB Group had met on 2 December and meeting notes would be available at the next C&E meeting when further information would be provided about the NLB's intention to enter the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category of the 2022 Britain in Bloom Campaign (non-competitive category and free to enter).

Cllr Davies joined the meeting.

**100 Budget**

- a Current budgets and EMRs were considered.

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- b **RESOLVED** to create a Queen's Jubilee Celebrations EMR and vire the remainder of budget 4363 (community event donations) to the newly created EMR.
- c No further action was taken.

### 101 Grants

- a It was noted that the grant of £2,000 awarded to Neston Parish Church (Stay & Play) on 12.10.21 was no longer required and the full £2,000 had been repaid.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve interim accounts totalling £3,761.38 in respect of the £10,000 grant awarded to Neston Nomads in June 2019.

**RESOLVED** to reject the suggestion made by Neston Nomads to make an early payment to Neston High School of £5,000 towards the cost of the new clubhouse. Given that the development had yet to receive the required planning approval, the Committee decided that such a payment would be premature and would not constitute end of grant evidence that the award had been spent as per the grant application.

**RESOLVED** to inform Neston Nomads that there must be definitive action by 30 June 2022 to spend and account for the remaining grant money.

- c **RESOLVED** to refuse a grant application of £2,500 from Neston Nomads on the grounds that there were accounts outstanding from a previous grant award. The Committee agreed to inform Neston Nomads that a grant application could be submitted for consideration once final accounts for the current grant award had been received and approved.

### 102 Transport Sub-committee

Minutes of the 05.12.21 meeting were received.

### 103 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

- a **RESOLVED** to select Union/Jubilee emblem design for the flag to be flown outside the Town Hall during the Jubilee celebrations.
- b **RESOLVED** to select the vintage bunting design and approve purchase of Jubilee bunting at a maximum cost of £1,000+VAT and delivery from budget 4361 (Ladies Day bunting).
- c
  - i. There was no councillor feedback on possible locations for tree planting as part of the "Queen's Green Canopy" (minute 84b, 12/10/21).
  - ii. **RESOLVED** that the Council should participate in the "Queen's Green Canopy" project as part of the 2022 Jubilee celebrations and the G&O Manager was requested to produce a message to the community explaining the project and asking for suggestions for planting locations as well as suggestions for community activities to celebrate the Jubilee. To be advertised via noticeboards and website and via social media including Neston Life (the G&O Manager advised that there may be a cost for some social media advertising).
- d
  - i. **RESOLVED** to establish a task & finish group to investigate further community celebration options, research funding opportunities, consider responses to the community message and make recommendations to a future C&E meeting.
  - ii. **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Marple (lead), Hinks and Kynaston to the task & finish group.
- e No further action was taken.

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## 104 Allotments

- a **RESOLVED** to provide ongoing delegated authority to the Governance & Operations Manager to purchase replacement plot number signs as and when required (current cost £3 per sign). Details of any expenditure to be reported to the C&E meeting following purchase.
- b The Committee considered report CE9/104b about the creation of a communal area at the Marshlands Road allotment site.

**RESOLVED** to purchase five fruit trees and five fruit bushes at a maximum cost of £250+VAT and delivery from budget 4180 for planting in the communal area of Marshlands Road allotment site (planting and maintenance to be undertaken by tenants).

**RESOLVED** that the Marshlands Road communal area be gardened without the use of pesticides and herbicides.

**RESOLVED** to add an additional clause to the allotment tenancy agreement from April 2022 onwards to detail the regulations in relation to the use of communal plots/areas within an allotment site:

"Wherever communal plots/areas exist (as indicated on the site plan), all tenants have equal opportunity to work collaboratively with fellow tenants to tend the plots/areas on the following terms:

- any communal plots/areas must be gardened without the use of pesticides or herbicides;
- no tenant will be obligated to tend a communal plot/area, but any tenant choosing not to do so will have no right to harvest any of its produce or make use of any of its composted material;
- tenants who choose to tend the communal plot/area are expected to do so in a spirit of co-operation and all decisions must be made in discussion and agreement with fellow tenants;
- any unresolved disputes over the use of a communal plot/area should be referred to the Town Council and the decision of the Town Council will be final;
- Neston Town Council reserves the right to withdraw any plots/areas from communal use."

## 105 Planning decisions

The Committee considered planning decisions for the applications on which the Town Council had submitted comments.

## 106 Floral maintenance

- a **RESOLVED** to purchase one 16" Amberol self-watering hanging basket and heavy-duty wall bracket at a combined cost of £42.50+VAT/delivery from budget 4211. Purpose: to assess the amount of watering required compared to standard baskets and the potential cost savings if self-watering baskets were to be installed as part of the floral maintenance contract.

It was agreed to request that potential contractors quote for the cost of using regular hanging baskets and also using self-watering hanging baskets.

- b **RESOLVED** to add the following environmental statement to the specification for floral maintenance contract:

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"Neston Town Council requires all civic floral arrangements to be environmentally sustainable and supportive of wildlife by ensuring that:

- the arrangements emphasise those plants that can support a broad range of insect life,
- plants are raised without the use of peat and arrangements are planted without the use of peat,
- no herbicides or pesticides are used in the raising of plants or maintaining of the arrangements.

Please include with your quotation a statement explaining your company's position on environmental sustainability and how your company can meet the priorities of the Town Council as stated above."

#### **107 Representation on external bodies**

- a Cllr Hinks provided an oral report of her meeting with a representative of Wirral Environmental Network and she explained that WEN considered the initial priorities for Neston Town Council could be identifying other interested groups and also consulting with the local community about possible projects.
- b Cllr Marple provided an oral report on the Coalition for Climate Change and suggested that it would not be appropriate for the Town Council to be a member of this organisation.
- c The Committee requested the Council Plan Task & Finish Group to consider the suggestions resulting from the WEN meeting for inclusion in the draft Council Plan.

#### **108 Mid-year review of C&E structure/terms of refence**

The Committee considered report CE9/108 and discussed the current C&E structure/terms of reference. The Committee decided that the current structure was working well and chose not to make any recommendations for change.

#### **109 Life for a Life Memorial Forest – Councillor proposal**

The Committee considered the proposal as detailed in report CE9/109.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (i) investigate the possibility of creating a woodland of native species of trees for the purpose of burying at the root ball of the trees, cremated remains;
- (ii) seek to identify a suitable and available piece/s of land for the purpose of a LfL project as detailed in the proposal (report CE9/109);
- (iii) establish a task and finish group (Cllrs Smith (lead), Hinks and Wastell) to progress 109(i) and 109(ii) and report findings to a future Community & Environment Committee meeting.

#### **110 Tree & hedge planting along the A540**

The Committee considered report CE9/110 which gave details of CWaC's proposal to plant 392 trees along the A540.

**RESOLVED** to request that CWaC give further consideration to the appropriateness of:

- planting close to Hanns Hall Road and the Tudor Rose which could make the turnings more difficult, and
- planting fruit trees next to the Shell garage on the corner of Hinderton Road. Councillors suggested that a different type of tree would be more suitable at this location.

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### 111 Mosquito Monitoring and Forecast

- a It was noted that the 2021 mosquito forecast had ended in November.
- b **RESOLVED** to continue the mosquito monitoring during 2022 and assigned a maximum total annual mosquito monitoring budget of £800.

**RESOLVED** to reimburse mosquito monitoring volunteers for any relevant expenditure upon production of receipts.

- c **RESOLVED** to continue the Neston Life app Mozzie Watch forecast in 2022 (current annual cost £100+VAT – any increase in rates for 2022 to be reported to Committee).

### 112 Police & Crime Plan 2021-24

- a The Police & Crime Plan 2021-24 was received.
- b The Committee chose not to take any action in relation to the Plan.

### 113 Date of next meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 1 February 2022 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Brenda Mearple. Date 1/2/22