



Meeting (No) **Community & Environment Committee (2)**
Time & Date **6pm, Tuesday 21 June 2022**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Samuel (from item 11), Hudspeth (substitute for Cllr Griffiths) and Wastell

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

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

8 Questions and comments from residents

There were no questions or comments.

9 Apologies for absence

The Committee received apologies for absence from Cllr Davies (personal) and Cllr Griffiths (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence.

10 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

Cllr Samuel joined the meeting.

11 Minutes of the last meeting

The Chair amended the minutes of the 12.04.22 meeting to include Cllr Griffiths in the list of those present and the Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the minutes as amended. The Chair signed the minutes.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 04.05.22, 10.05.22 and 14.06.22. The Chair signed the minutes.

12 Governance & Operations Manager's report & officer delegated decisions

- a The Committee received the Governance & Operations Manager's report and noted that the cost of servicing and shipping the three mosquito traps totalled £404.96+VAT.
- b Three officer delegated decisions were reported.
 - Payment of £100 approved for Furrocks Lane Jubilee party (delegated authority from C&E 10.05.22, minute 182c).
 - P&A Benbow appointed to remove the High Street bicycle pump and make good the ground at a cost of £140+VAT (delegated authority from C&E 10.05.22, minute 187). Work complete.
 - Bits & Bobs Handyman appointed to restore the Town Council bench located in the grounds of the parish church at a cost of £275 (delegated authority from C&E 10.05.22, minute 186). Work complete.

13 Exceptions report

To exceptions report was reviewed. No action was taken.

14 Schedule of meetings

RESOLVED to agree a schedule of Community & Environment Committee meetings for the current council year.

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15 Budgets

Budgets/EMRS were considered. No changes were made.

16 Grants

- a An update on grants awarded in the current financial year was received.
- b The Committee considered the grant application from The Hinderton Arms to purchase a defibrillator at a cost of £1,450. It was agreed to inform The Hinderton Arms that a contribution towards the cost of purchase would be considered once it was confirmed whether Waitrose would be installing a defibrillator at the A540 Shell Garage.
- c The Committee considered a grant application from Neston Singers to create a website at a cost of £492. The Committee decided that a website would not necessarily fulfil the aim of increasing membership and that accessing other platforms with the assistance of free community IT support would increase the group's reach more effectively. The Chair agreed to discuss the Committee's decision with Neston Singers.
- d **RESOLVED** to approve a second set of interim grant accounts from Neston Nomads to the value of £1,678.44. (Interim grant accounts to the value of £3,761.38 had been approved by C&E Committee on 07/12/21 – minute 101b.)
- e **RESOLVED** to approve a variation of grant request from Neston Nomads to use the £4,560.18 remaining from the grant of £10,000 towards the cost of providing kit, medals and courses between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

17 Community Donations

It was noted that £8,165 had so far been spent in support of community jubilee events and tree planting.

18 Community art project

The Committee considered a proposal to investigate the possibility of introducing a community art scheme as detailed in paper CE2/18. It was agreed that Cllr Samuel would identify suitable telecoms boxes and/or benches and the estimated cost for each and report findings to Committee for a decision.

19 Allotments

- a **RESOLVED** to obtain a fixed price quotation at a cost of £115.20 from United Utilities for the provision of water at the Marshlands Road allotment site.
- b **RESOLVED** to renew the annual membership of The National Allotment Society (NSALG). Current annual fee is £55+VAT.
- c **RESOLVED** to continue providing delegated authority to the G&O Manager on an ongoing basis to arrange for small-scale maintenance work such as lock/gate repairs and path strimming up to a maximum annual total of £500 per financial year. Expenditure to be reported to next committee meeting.

20 Village Fair

- a The Village Fair Task & Finish Group provided an update on preparations for the Town council's stand and confirmed that there would be an environmental theme for this year's stand which would focus on encouraging individual action.
- b **RESOLVED** to provide a maximum budget of £150 for the supplies needed for the Town Council stand: a banner, printing, seeds, biodegradable pots and compost.

21 Christmas Lights

- a The Committee noted that the Task & Finish Group remit had been distributed to all

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councillors on 27.04.22 but that only one councillor had volunteered to join the Task & Finish Group.

- b It was agreed that Cllrs Marple, Kynaston and Samuel would form a task and finish group and report back to the next meeting with recommendations for provision of lights/decorations for Christmas 2022.

22 Planning Protocol

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the draft Planning Protocol be adopted. Some minor alterations to layout were suggested and a typographical error was noted.

23 Planning application 22/01540/OUT – The Stables, Lees Lane, Neston (construction of 14 dwellings to include four affordable dwellings and associated access)

RESOLVED to respond to the Planning Authority that Neston Town Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate development on Green Belt land and is contrary to Neston Neighbourhood Plan Policy NNDS1 and Policy STRAT 9 of the Local Plan. In this instance the harm that will be caused to the Green Belt is not outweighed by other considerations (NPPF, para 148).

24 Customer Care Policy

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the draft Customer Care Policy be adopted. Some minor alterations to layout were suggested.

25 Training request

- a **RESOLVED** that Cllr Samuel could attend a council climate emergency training programme at a cost of £100. It was suggested that an officer might also attend.
- b It was agreed that Cllr Samuel would feed back to Committee upon completion of the training programme.

26 Sub-committees and working groups

- a The Committee decided to investigate the possibility of creating a new sub-committee incorporating active and public transport within a broader environmental remit. G&O Manager to produce draft terms of reference for consideration at the next meeting.
- b It was decided not to establish any working groups.

27 Representation on external organisations

- a Neston Female Society – it was noted that Cllr Kynaston had been nominated by Council as the representative to liaise with Neston Female Society.
- b Neston Station Adopters – **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wastell would be the Council's representative.
- c Wrexham-Bidston Rail Users' Association – **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wastell would be the Council's representative.
- d The Committee noted that the Community Rail Partnership had been disbanded.

28 Date of next meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 11 October at 6pm.

RESOLVED to hold an additional meeting at 10am on Thursday 7 July 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Brenda M. Marple Date 7/7/2022