



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Environmental &amp; Sustainability Sub-committee (1)</b>
<i>Time &amp; Date</i>	<b>5pm Tuesday 6 September 2022</b>
<i>Place</i>	<b>Neston Town Hall</b>
<i>Document</i>	<b>Minutes</b>

**Present:** Cllr Townsend (Chair), Mr J Allcock (non-voting member), Cllr Samuel and Cllr Wastell

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

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

### **1 Election of Chair**

Cllr Marple (Chair of the Community & Environment Committee) opened the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Sub-committee Chair.

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Townsend as Chair of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee to serve until the first meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee in the new Council year.

Cllr Townsend chaired the meeting from this point forward.

### **2 Election of Vice-Chair**

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Samuel as Vice-Chair of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee to serve until the first meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee in the new Council year.

### **3 Questions and comments from residents**

There were no questions or comments from residents.

### **4 Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **5 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **6 Exceptions report**

It was noted that there were no exceptions to report for the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee.


### **7 Governance & Operations Manager's report and officer delegated decisions**

- a Report ES1/7a was received and it was noted that Neston Earth Group would be establishing a working group to progress the work towards Plastic Free Communities status.

The G&O Manager also reported that some basic research had been carried out about collaborative clean air education projects undertaken by other councils to reduce exposure to emissions caused by car idling outside schools and that the Sub-committee might wish to consider progressing this as part of its work programme.

- b It was noted that no delegated decisions relating to the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee had been taken since the Community & Environment Committee on 07.07.22.

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## **8 Public transport update**

Mr Allcock, Chair of the Wrexham-Bidston Rail Users' Association, gave an oral update on rail developments relating to Neston:

### Track replacement works

The track replacement works are continuing but likely to be behind schedule because of rail strikes. There are currently bus replacements for early morning and late evening services during the week.

### Class 230 trains

Testing of the Class 230 trains and associated staff training has recommenced.

### Deeside Parkway

A decision is awaited on the funding bid for the Deeside Parkway project.

## **9 Council climate emergency workshop**

The Sub-committee received oral feedback from Cllr Samuel on the workshop sessions held on 19 and 26 July. It was noted that the workshop had provided very general information and some ideas about good practice.

## **10 Plastic Free Neston**

- a It was noted that Council had passed a motion supporting the community effort to attain Plastic Free status for Neston and the Council had committed to:
  - lead by example by working towards removing single-use plastic items from council premises;
  - encourage plastic-free initiatives, promote Plastic Free Neston and support events;
  - appoint an officer to represent the Town Council at Plastic Free Community steering group meetings.
- b The G&O Manager updated the Sub-committee on the current status of the project and explained that a leaflet had been produced for distribution at the Neston Earth Festival to encourage volunteer support.

## **11 Terms of reference and work programme**

- a The Sub-committee discussed possible options for inclusion in a work programme. It was decided that Councillors would research the suggestions further for consideration at the next meeting at which time the work programme for the coming months would be agreed.
- b It was agreed to make two requests to the Community & Environment Committee:
  - (i) that a specific environmental & sustainability budget be included in the Community & Environment Committee's budget request for 23/24;
  - (ii) to consider providing to the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee delegated spending powers for this specific budget and to amend the Sub-committee's terms of reference accordingly.

## **12 Draft Environmental Policy**

The Town Council's draft Environmental Policy was considered and it was agreed to recommend to the Community & Environment Committee that three amendments be made to the policy:

- (i) add a third paragraph to the introduction to read "The Town Council will actively promote the community to embrace environmental and sustainability initiatives";

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- (ii) delete all bullet points and replace with "The Town Council will take every reasonable measure to comply with and promote recognised best practice";
- (iii) add a final paragraph which reads "The Town Council will aspire and move towards obtaining ISO 14001 accreditation".

**13 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee at 5pm on Tuesday 22 November.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.

Signed  Date 22-11-22