



Meeting (No) **Community & Environment Committee (8)**
Time & Date **6pm, Tuesday 7 February 2023**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Griffiths and Wastell

In attendance: Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager) and one resident

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

83 Questions and comments from residents

A resident spoke in relation to agenda item 88 and requested that the Committee recommended to Highways that the cycle lane within the coned area be completed and then opened to the public to see how it worked before installing double yellow lines at this location.

84 Apologies for absence

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

85 Declarations of Interest

Agenda item 91c: Cllr Marple – non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Parkgate Society.

Agenda item 92d: Cllr Wastell – non-pecuniary interest as a member of Friends of West Vale Park.

86 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 11.10.22, 08.11.22 and 10.01.23. The Chair signed the minutes.

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

- a The Committee received the Governance & Operations Manager's report. It was noted in particular that the Town Hall defibrillator had been purchased and installed at a total cost of £1,613.26+VAT.
- b The report of officer delegated decisions relating to the Community & Environment Committee was reviewed.

88 Highways proposal to introduce a new prohibition of waiting order on Quarry Road

Paper CE8/88 was noted and the Chair reported that discussions with various parties were ongoing. It was agreed to consider this matter further at the next Committee meeting once the outcome of the discussions was known. The Committee decided to send an interim response to Highways to:

- explain that discussions were currently taking place with the police and Cllr Millar to try to better understand the situation and the views of all parties;
- confirm that a full response would be submitted following the next Committee meeting;
- request an anticipated completion date for the work on the lane that is currently coned off.

Chair's initials and date:

BMM 21/2/23

89 Exceptions report

It was noted that there were currently no exceptions for the Community and Environment Committee.

90 Committee budgets

- a The current Committee budget and earmarked reserves were considered. The Committee directed the RFO to earmark any money remaining in the following budgets at the end of the current financial year:

4180 – allotments
4211 – floral arrangement maintenance
4230 – marshes/mosquito monitoring
4330 – Christmas lights/decorations
4360 – community grants
4363 – community event donations.

- b The Committee noted details of the 23/24 budget approved by Council.

91 Coronation

- a It was agreed that the coronation budget would be used to support three events, one each in Parkgate, Neston and Ness.

Parkgate

RESOLVED to provide a donation of £1,000 for the Parkgate Coronation party (via the same organising group that delivered the Parkgate Jubilee party).

Neston

It was agreed to allocate £2,500 for a central celebration in Market Square/Town Hall. The Chair to pursue options and report back.

Ness

It was agreed to provide financial support for a road closure during the Ness celebrations. Cllr Wastell to discuss with the organisers and report back with costs.

Festival of Volunteering: the Chair reported that she was investigating ways to support local community groups by encouraging new volunteers as well as possibly organising a "litter pick your own street" volunteering event for 8 May.

The Chair confirmed that an extra meeting would be called to finalise arrangements once the above information was available.

- b **RESOLVED** to purchase red, white and blue bunting at a maximum cost of £600 from budget 4363 (community event donations).
- c **RESOLVED** to approve installation of bunting in the High Street area by the existing contractor at a maximum cost of £2,400+VAT from budget 4361 (Ladies Day bunting). Bunting to be installed at the end of April with the expenditure being taken from the 23/24 budget.

92 Grants

- a **RESOLVED** to amend the Grants Policy to require all grant recipients to align with Council priorities by becoming a Plastic Free Neston Community Ally or working towards becoming a Plastic Free Neston Business Champion.
- b **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £471.20 to the Neston and District Art Society in support of the 2023 annual exhibition.
- c **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £500 to Parkgate Society towards the cost of installing a new bench for the accessible viewing platform at the Old Baths car park.

Chair's initials and date:

BMM 21/2/23

- d **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £700 to Wirral Riding Centre towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator to be located externally thereby allowing 24-hour community access.
- e **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £433 to Neston Singers for the purchase of sheet music.

93 Donations

- a **RESOLVED** to amend the Community Events Donations Policy to require all recipients of donations to align with Council priorities by becoming a Plastic Free Neston Community Ally.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve an end of event expenditure breakdown from Neston Village Fair Committee for the 2022 Village Fair.
- c **RESOLVED** to provide a donation of £500 to Ellesmere Port & Neston Scout District in support of their activity day on 12 March.
- d **RESOLVED** to offer the opportunity for three community groups to submit costed project plans for consideration and approval as per the Community Event Donations Policy:
 - Neston Village Fair 2023 (Neston Village Fair Committee) £1,700
 - Ladies Day 2023 entertainment (Hip & Harmony) £4,000
 - Christmas Lights 2022 switch-on event (Hip & Harmony) £5,500
 - West Vale Family Fun Day 2022 (Friends of West Vale Park) £1,600.

In addition, it was agreed that £1,000 would be made available for publicity of the 2024 Neston Music Festival (Festival scheduled for April 2024 and publicity expenditure to be incurred in financial year 23/24).

It was noted that all the above payments would be taken from budget 4363 (community event donations) in financial year 23/24.

94 Remembrance Sunday

The Committee reviewed the 2022 event. It was noted that the event went well but that there were some modifications that could be made for 2023:

Notification

To try to secure named contacts for emergency services and public transport to double-check that the advance notification reaches local staff.

Schedule

Meet with parish church/RBL in the spring to review and adjust timings of the church and wreath laying services.

Road closure

- Install advance notification signs on Hinderton Road.
- At the Breezehill Road/Bushell Road traffic lights, create a no through route westbound towards Neston by coning off one side of the road and adding a "no through route" sign.
- Specific diversion signs needed directing Neston/Parkgate traffic to Breezehill Road and Burton/Neston traffic to Bushell Road.
- Hold an early site meeting with the traffic management company to progress these road closure improvements.

95 Christmas Lights

Consideration of options for control management of High Street Christmas lights was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

Chair's initials and date:

BMM 21/2/23

96 Planning applications

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

97 Neston Looking Better Group

The notes of the meeting held on 03.11.22 were received.

98 Allotments

- a **RESOLVED** to increase allotment rent by 3% in the 2024/25.
- b **RESOLVED** to continue using the online tenancy renewal system on an ongoing basis until such time as the Committee decides otherwise. Annual renewal cost to be reported to Committee.
- c **RESOLVED** to amend the Allotments Policy in order to allow:
 - the removal of names from the waiting list if an allotment offer is refused on three occasions;
 - the inclusion of small fenced wildlife ponds that incorporate shallow areas for wildlife safety.
- d The Committee considered Council feedback and agreed that the funds would not be available in 23/24 to install mains water at the Marshlands site.

99 Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee meeting held on 22.11.22 and the record of the inquorate meeting on 31.01.23. The Chair signed the minutes and record.

100 Neston Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee considered Neighbourhood Plan Appendix M priorities, including achievements to date as well as projects that were either ongoing or planned.

Clayhill Business Park

Enhancement to safety and security for occupiers and users – currently liaising with business owners/CWaC to improve security.

Neston Town Centre

Improved signage – work ongoing to install new signage in the town.

Retention and enhancement of car parking – EV charging points installed.

Visitor Economy

Ness Botanic Gardens – currently actively supporting and engaging with a consultation aimed at improving the visitor experience.

Improving the visitor experience at Parkgate Parade – actively engaging with and financially supporting the Old Baths restoration project and associated marsh works.

101 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on 18.04.23 at 6pm.

It was agreed to hold an additional meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 21 February for the purpose of agreeing a final response to Highways in relation to the proposed prohibition of waiting order on Quarry Road and also to formulate comments on planning applications.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed Brenda M Marple Date 21/12/23