



Meeting (No) **PLACES COMMITTEE (8)**  
Time & Date **6pm 3 March 2020**  
Place **Town Hall**  
Document **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs Davies (Chair), Bennoch (substitute for Cllr Warner), Griffiths, Roe and Wastell.

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

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

**113 Questions and comments from residents**

There were no questions or comments.

**114 Apologies for absence**

**RESOLVED** to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Hutt (personal) and Warner (personal).

The absence of Cllr Flockhart was noted.

**115 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**116 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** to approve minutes of the meeting held on 03.12.19. The Chair signed the minutes.

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

The Committee considered report PL8/117. In addition, it was noted that discussions with Highways were ongoing about the condition of the stretch of footpath on Raby Park Road between the High School and the Chester High Road.

**118 Chair's report**

The Chair reported on points of interest from the Policy meetings held on 18.02.20, 02.03.20 and 03.03.20.

**119 Committee budget**

- a Current budget and EMRs were considered.

It was noted that a £2,000 contribution had been received from CWaC towards the cost of future marsh pool creation and that this would be added to EMR 9325.

- b **RESOLVED** to change the name of budget line 4335 (currently community pride competition) to "Britain in Bloom competition". The reason for the change of name was that the community pride competition had ended and the community was looking to enter Britain in Bloom as an alternative.
- c **RESOLVED** to earmark any money remaining in budget 4230 (marsh/mosquito monitoring) at the end of the financial year to be used for anticipated additional monitoring costs during 20/21.

**120 Committee objectives**

- a Current objectives were considered. No changes were made.
- b Committee objectives for the 20/21 financial year – this item was considered later (following item 128) by common consent.

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## 121 Marsh Working Group

- a The Committee considered notes of the meeting held on 16.01.20.

### **RESOLVED** to:

- i. continue mosquito monitoring during 2020 at a maximum cost of £800 (reimbursement of expenditure incurred by marsh monitoring volunteers to be paid retrospectively on production of receipts);
  - ii. continue producing the mosquito forecast and providing the Mozzie Watch service on the Neston Life app from 1 April to 31 October 2020 at a maximum cost of £70+VAT);
  - iii. continue with bite reporting during 2020 and delegate authority to the G&O Manager to utilise funds earmarked from budget 4230 (see minute 119c) in order to implement IT solutions for the improvement of data quality and to streamline the administration of bite reporting.
- b The Committee received report PL8/120b and considered recommendations as outlined in the report from an observer at the meeting.

It was noted that these recommendations were not endorsed by the Marsh Working Group. It was also noted that Professor Clarkson had confirmed that he was opposed to spraying the marshes and had stated that spraying with an oil would be an environmental disaster for this area with its unique flora and fauna.

The G&O Manager was requested to establish the RSPB's position on marsh spraying as well as the RSPB's view on the effectiveness and practicalities of installing bat boxes near this location.

The option to commission independent research was mooted.

## 122 Transport Working Group

- a The Committee considered notes of the TWG meeting held on 13.02.20.
- b The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that that Sustainable Connectivity for Neston be adopted (superseding the Neston Rail Position Statement, Transport Charter and Transport Standard).
- c The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that an acknowledgement of the work of the former TWG Chair to improving public transport in Neston be included in the Council minutes and that a letter of thanks, signed by the Mayor, be sent to Dr Lloyd.
- d **RESOLVED** to approve the TWG's amended terms of reference.

## 123 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee considered notes of the meeting held on 15.01.20.

## 124 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan: Draft House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings Supplementary Planning Document

The draft CWaC document was considered.

**RESOLVED** not to submit any comments on this document.

## 125 Action 54 Zero Partnership

The Council's representative reported that a meeting of the group would be held in the near future.

## 126 Neston Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring

- a The Chair gave a résumé of the current situation with regard to Neighbourhood Plan monitoring.

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- b The Committee considered report PE8/126b and considerations listed.
- c The Committee noted that there was no official guidance in respect of monitoring but that CWaC recommended the Town Council should consider key planning policies.

The G&O Manager brought members' attention to sections eight (delivery and implementation) and nine (monitoring and review) of the Neighbourhood plan.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that:

- the Town Council should not undertake a Neighbourhood Plan review; and
- the focus of monitoring should be on planning applications and be undertaken by the Places Committee.

The Committee requested the Council Manager to ascertain if there had been any relevant legislation that might necessitate amendment of the Neighbourhood Plan as per section 9.7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- d The Committee agreed to analyse the outcome of all 2018 and 2019 planning applications to which the Town Council had submitted comments.

### **127 Benches**

The Committee confirmed that the recently renovated benches at St Thomas' Church and Well Lane were both of an acceptable standard.

### **128 Dee Coastliners Project**

The Committee received a report of the 30.01.20 meeting.

### **120 Committee objectives** – item 120b was, by common consent, considered out of sequence.

- b The Committee discussed options for new objectives and agreed to align committee objectives with the financial year. It was agreed that objectives should focus on the three broad areas of committee responsibility:
- planning applications
  - enhancement of the environment
  - Highways and public transport.

It was agreed that the Committee would set objectives based on current commitments and ongoing work and that the new committee membership in May would then be able to revisit and expand the committee objectives for the remainder of the financial year.

**RESOLVED** to create two initial committee objectives for financial year 20/21:

- planning (analyse planning applications for 2018 and 2019 to which the Town Council had submitted comments);
- environment (undertake an environmental review of the Council's activities and, where appropriate, make recommendations for improvements).

The Committee agreed that it would be useful to create objectives in relation to Sustainable Connectivity for Neston if and when the document was adopted by Council.

### **129 Other items the Chairman determines are urgent for discussion, or noting for the next agenda**

There were no other items.

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### 130 Next scheduled meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be agreed at the Annual meeting of the Council on 19.05.20.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Brenda M. Harpke Date 1/6/21