



*Meeting (No)* **Community & Environment Committee (10)**  
*Time & Date* **6pm Tuesday 6 February 2024**  
*Place* **Neston Town Hall**  
*Document* **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies, Doughty, Griffiths and Wastell (substitute for Cllr Hardcastle)

**In attendance:** A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager)

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

### **103 Public Participation** (maximum of three minutes per person)

There were no comments from members of the public.

### **104 Apologies for Absence**

The Committee received apologies for absence from Cllr Hardcastle (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reason for absence. The absence of Cllr Townsend was noted.

### **105 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Wastell declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 110 on the grounds that he was a member of Friends of West Vale Park.

### **106 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to accept as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 23.01.24. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **107 Community & Environment Manager's Report**

The Committee received the Community & Environment Manager's written report (CE10/107).

### **108 Community & Environment Committee Budget**

The month nine budget statement and earmarked reserves were considered and clarification was sought on the budget amounts assigned to 4230 (marshes/mosquito monitoring) and 4301 (community engagement) for 24/25. It was confirmed that 4230 included a sum for the planned 2024 marsh dredging. It was also confirmed that individual budget lines for display materials, information leaflets/guides and newsletters had been incorporated into 4301 in order to provide a more streamlined approach and greater flexibility.

### **109 Council Delivery Plan**

- a The Committee considered the objectives it had set for 2024 in support of the Council's strategy delivery plan. No alterations or additions were made.
- b In respect of the decision taken at the 05.12.23 meeting that members would review the C&E-related categories and priorities within the delivery plan, it was decided to defer discussion of this matter until the meeting scheduled for 09.04.24. The C&E Manager was requested to send a reminder to all committee members and collate responses as a paper for consideration at the April meeting.

### **110 Community Event Donations**

The Committee discussed options for supporting annual community events during the financial year 24/45 as per the Community Events Policy and **RESOLVED** to:

Chair's initials and date: *BMM 13/2/24*

- offer a donation of £1,600 to Friends of West Vale Park in support of the 2024 West Vale Park Family Fun Day subject to committee approval of a costed project outline;
- assign a maximum budget of £7,600 for a Christmas event on 30 November 2024;
- offer a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee in support of the 2024 village fair subject to committee approval of a costed project outline;
- assign a maximum of £1,000 to cover publicity costs for the spring 2025 Neston Music Festival (publicity to be undertaken in the 24/25 financial year);
- assign a maximum budget of £1,500 for the 2024 Ladies Day entertainment;
- contribute £500 to support events in Neston Library as part of the Summer Reading Challenge 2024.

### 111 Community Grants

- a The Committee received an update on the current status of community grant expenditure for the financial year 23/24.
- b **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £471.20 to NADAS in support of the 2024 Annual Exhibition.
- c **RESOLVED** that, from 1 April 2024, the small grants programme would be expanded to include any applications of not more than £500 and that the Grants Policy and small grants programme application form should be updated to reflect the change.

### 112 Allotments

- a **RESOLVED** to increase allotment rent by 3% for the year 2025/26.
- b **RESOLVED** that the pest control contract with CWaC for the Raby Park Road allotment site would be renewed annually on an ongoing basis until such time as the Community & Environment Committee decided otherwise and that annual renewal costs should be reported to C&E Committee for inclusion in the minutes.
- c **RESOLVED** to obtain quotations for the installation of mains water on the Marshlands Road site during the financial year 24/25. Quotations to be considered at a future meeting.

### 113 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would held be on 09.04.24 at 6pm.  
**RESOLVED** to hold an additional meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 13.02.24.

### 114 Exclusion of the Press and the Public

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

## PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

### 115 Replacement Noticeboard

The Committee considered four quotations for replacement of the Parkgate noticeboard along with a quotation for installation (installation quotation sought from a local CWaC-approved contractor as work to be carried out on the public highway).

Chair's initials and date: *BMM 13/2/24*

**RESOLVED** to appoint The Parish Noticeboard Company to supply a "prestige" range aluminium noticeboard in black finish with gold lettering to complement other street furniture in the conservation area at a cost of £2,150+VAT and £65 delivery. Members specified that the community side of the board should allow the use of pins rather than magnets.

The Committee expressed the view that future replacement boards should be of the same design to ensure a consistent look across the town.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £430+VAT from the approved contractor (P&A Benbow) to remove and dispose of the current noticeboard and then collect and install the replacement board.

Having noted that there was an intention to replace the West Vale noticeboard in the next financial year, members asked whether there were savings to be made by purchasing two boards at the same time. It was agreed to ask this question of The Parish Noticeboard Company and consider the response at the 13 February meeting prior to placing the order for the replacement Parkgate board.

**116 D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plaque**

Four companies had been contacted to provide quotations for a commemorative plaque and two quotations had been submitted.

**RESOLVED** not to purchase an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative plaque.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed Brenda M. Marple Date 13/2/24