



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (12)
<i>Time & Date</i>	6pm Tuesday 9 April 2024
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Doughty (from item 130), Griffiths, Hardcastle, Kynaston (substitute for Cllr Davies) and Townsend

In attendance: A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager) and Cllr Braithwaite

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

125 Public Participation

There were no comments from members of the public.

126 Apologies for Absence

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

127 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kynaston declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda items 132b and 132c on the grounds that she was a member of both Friends of West Vale Park and Neston Female Society.

Cllr Griffiths declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 133c on the grounds that she might be nominated for a volunteering award at the proposed community event.

128 Minutes of the Last Meeting

- a **RESOLVED** to accept as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 13.02.24. The Chair signed the minutes.
- b It was clarified that minute 110 (06.02.24) referred to the financial year 24/25.

129 Community & Environment Manager's Report

The Committee received the Community & Environment Manager's report and noted several items of expenditure:

- a one month PandaDoc subscription (allotment tenancy renewal) – \$35/£28,
- allotment clearance work at Raby Park Road site to 31.03.24 – £675,
- purchase of a wheelbarrow for allotment clearance work – £70.79+VAT,
- Ladies Day road closure management scheme – £1,435+VAT,
- magnets for replacement Parkgate noticeboard – £21.57,
- Mozzie Watch forecast on Neston Life app from April to November – £80.

Cllr Doughty joined the meeting.

130 Committee Budgets 2023/24

- a The month 12 C&E Committee budget statement and earmarked reserves were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to vire £480 from 4208 (Environmental Improvements) to 4361 (Ladies Day Bunting).
- b **RESOLVED** that up to £150 may be added to the C&E Manager's prepayment (Equals) card as required to cover the cost of day-to-day C&E-related expenditure and to delegate authority to the C&E Manager to make such day-to-day purchases.

Chair's initials and date:

131 Council Delivery Plan

- a The Committee reviewed the current status of the delivery plan categories within the remit of the Community and Environment Committee.

In answer to a councillor query in relation to the health and wellbeing aspects of the delivery plan, it was confirmed that the Market and Town Hall Committee had agreed that the Town Hall could be used without charge for defibrillator training sessions as long as there was no liability for the Town Council and the sessions were free of charge to participants. Councillors were advised to contact the Market and Town Hall Manager if they knew of any defibrillator training providers who wished to make use of the Town Hall to offer free of charge defibrillator training sessions.

- b **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Braithwaite as Neston Town Council representative on the Neston & Willaston Care Community Steering Group.

132 Community Event Donations

- a A costed project outline was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee for the Neston Village Fair 2024.
- b A costed project outline was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £1,600 to Friends of West Vale Park for the West Vale Park Family Fun Day 2024. Cllr Kynaston did not participate in discussion of this agenda item, nor did she vote on the motion.
- c A costed project outline was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £1,500 to Neston Female Society for entertainment for Ladies Day 2024. Cllr Kynaston did not participate in discussion of this agenda item, nor did she vote on the motion.
- d **RESOLVED** to provide a donation of £2,500 to Neston Parish Church (St Mary & St Helen) for the provision of external Christmas lights to enhance the Christmas display.
- e **RESOLVED** to approve details of the community Christmas event scheduled for 30.11.24 and to release funds up to the agreed maximum (minute 110) to be used for event preparations, including the cost of road closure and event licence.

133 Community Grants

- a Prior to the commencement of consideration of agenda item 133a, the C&E Manager advised Members to scrutinise the Neston Flower Society balance sheet and to be mindful of the fact that the Grants Policy stated that awards would only be made when the applicant was unable to fully fund a project or purchases from their own resources.

RESOLVED to provide a grant of £1,000 to Neston Flower Society for 65th anniversary exhibition costs.

- b **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £2,500 to Little Actors for the 2024-25 season of theatre from Neston Town Hall.
- c **RESOLVED** to provide a grant request of £498.40 to Neston Community Youth Centre for an event to celebrate local community heroes. Cllr Griffiths did not participate in discussion of this agenda item, nor did she vote on the motion.
- d **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £1,790 to 2375 (Neston) Air Cadets Association for essential learning and development equipment.

134 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee considered notes of the meeting held on 15.02.24.

Chair's initials and date:

135 Marsh Working Group

RESOLVED to approve the Marsh Working Group recommendation that the autumn 2024 dredging should concentrate on amalgamating the small, shallow pools in front of the Harp pub and just south of Denhall Quay and to obtain a dredging quotation via RSPB for consideration at a future meeting.

136 Village Fair

RESOLVED to have a Town Council stand at the Village Fair on 6 July. Cllrs Marple, Kynaston and Hardcastle volunteered to organise the stand and make all necessary preparations.

137 Bunting

- a Advice had been received from the installation contractor that no new bunting would be required for 2024.
- b **RESOLVED** that bunting should be installed in the High Street area by the existing contractor at a maximum cost of £3,000+VAT from budget 4361 (Ladies Day bunting) and that the bunting should remain in place for eight weeks from Ladies Day.

138 Telephone Boxes

- a It was agreed to recommend to Council that Neston Town Council should apply to take ownership of the telephone box opposite the Royal Oak in Little Neston if BT decided to decommission the box.

It was noted that the telephone box at the junction of Landseer Avenue/Raeburn Avenue might be decommissioned and it was agreed that Council should be asked to consider whether the Town Council might also apply to take ownership of this box.

It was noted that a response needed to be submitted before 3 May and the Chair confirmed that she would make a request to the Mayor to call an extraordinary Council meeting prior to this date so that the matter could be decided before the deadline.

- b It was decided that engagement with the local community about potential uses for these phone boxes should be considered if and when the phone boxes became Town Council assets.

139 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21.05.24.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed _____ Date _____