



*Meeting (No)*      **Community & Environment Committee (1)**  
*Time & Date*      **6pm Tuesday 11 June 2024**  
*Place*              **Neston Town Hall**  
*Document*         **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies, Edwards, Griffiths and Townsend

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

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

**1 Election of Chair**

Nominations were received from Cllr Brenda Marple and Cllr John Edwards and a ballot was held. Cllr Marple received the highest number of votes and was therefore elected as Chair of the Community & Environment Committee for the ensuing year.

**2 Election of Vice-Chair**

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Simon Davies as Vice-Chair of the Community & Environment Committee for the ensuing year.

**3 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**4 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies had been received. The absence of Cllr Doughty was noted.

**5 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Marple declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9b as she intended to join the proposed Neston & Parkgate Friends of the Wirral Way group.

**6 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to accept as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 07.05.24. The Chair signed the minutes.

**7 Community & Environment Manager's Report**

The Community & Environment Manager confirmed the following expenditure since the last scheduled meeting:

- two-month subscription to PadaDoc (for online allotment tenancy renewal) at a cost of \$35 (approximately £28) per month;
- continuation of clearance works at the Raby Park Road allotment site between 1 April and 31 May at a cost of £712.20 for 28.5 hours;
- reusable Ladies Day car park closure sign at a cost of £28.99;
- two additional noticeboard keys for the Parkgate noticeboard at a cost of £11.90;
- magnets for the replacement West Vale Park noticeboard at a cost of £19.23+£2.34 postage;
- two spare keys for Raby Park Road allotment site at a cost of £11.90.

It was confirmed that, following the decision taken by Council on 24.04.24 (minute 97), an application had been made to BT to take ownership of the telephone boxes in Town Lane and Landseer Avenue and a response was awaited.

It was reported that the parish church service held on 6 June to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day had been well attended and that the bells had been rung at

Chair's initials and date:

6.30pm as part of the national Ringing for Peace. The Committee commended the Administration Assistant for her efforts in arranging the commemoration.

The C&E Manager advised Members that it would no longer be possible to request extended time periods for the submission of comments on planning applications and that any future responses would need to be submitted within 21 days of notification.

## **8 Committee Budgets 2023/24**

The Committee received the month two committee budget statement and earmarked reserves.

## **9 Committee Objectives 2024**

- a The current status of the C&E Committee's agreed objectives was reviewed and no alterations were made.
- b **RESOLVED** to provide a start-up donation of £250 to Neston & Parkgate Friends of the Wirral Way for the purchase of equipment and supplies from budget 4363 (community event donations). Having declared an interest, Cllr Marple refrained from voting on this motion.
- c **RESOLVED** to provide delegated authority to officers to make purchases up to a maximum of £200 from budget 4371 (youth engagement) for the 2024/25 Junior Council.

## **10 C&E Committee Working Groups**

### a Neston Looking Better Group

**RESOLVED** to:

- approve the continuation of the Neston Looking Better Group,
- approve the existing terms of reference without alteration, and
- appoint Cllrs Griffiths (lead), Kynaston and Marple as members of the group.

### b Marsh Working Group

**RESOLVED** to:

- approve the continuation of the Marsh Working Group,
- approve the existing terms of reference without alteration, and
- appoint Cllrs Davies (lead), Edwards and Marple as members of the group.

### c Transport Working Group

**RESOLVED** to establish a Transport Working Group and appoint Cllrs Edwards, Townsend (lead) and Wastell as members of the group. The Committee set an overall objective of researching matters of importance relating to transport, including active travel, and submitting findings and recommendations to the Community & Environment Committee. The Working Group members were asked to draft initial terms of reference for consideration and approval at the 8 October meeting.

## **11 Appointment of Representatives to External Organisations**

### Female Society

It was decided to seek confirmation as to whether the Female Society required a Town Council representative.

### Neston Station Adopters

It was decided that it would not be necessary to appoint a representative as the newly established Transport Working Group would be able to liaise with Neston Station Adopters.

Chair's initials and date:

**RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Wastell as the Council's representative to WBRUA.

**12 Council Policies**

- a It was agreed to recommend that the revised Community Engagement Policy be adopted by Council.
- b It was agreed to recommend that the Environment Policy be adopted by Council.
- c It was agreed to recommend that the Planning Protocol be adopted by Council.

**13 Summer Support Sessions for Ukrainian Refugees**

**RESOLVED** to provide funding of £555 from budget 4363 (community event donations) for the provision of summer support sessions for Ukrainian refugees.

**14 Provision of Mains Water to Marshlands Road Allotment Site**

- a The Committee received a project update and noted that permission had been sought from CWaC to undertake trenching works alongside the access path to the field and that a response was awaited.
- b Cllr Edwards declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14b as he held shares in United Utilities.

**RESOLVED** to accept a quotation of £2,750+VAT from United Utilities for provision of mains water to the Marshlands Road allotment site, subject to approval of the overall project cost and the granting of permissions. It was confirmed that this resolution would not be progressed until such time as the necessary permissions had been received and the cost of the on-site trenching works and standpipe installation had been considered and approved by the C&E Committee.

Having declared an interest, Cllr Edwards did not participate in discussion of this agenda item and he refrained from voting.

**15 Neston & Willaston Community Partnership Steering Group**

The Committee received a written update from Cllr Braithwaite following her attendance at a steering group meeting on 9 May.

**16 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would held be on 08.10.24 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_