



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (7)
<i>Time & Date</i>	6pm Tuesday 4 February 2025
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies, Griffiths, David Ruscoe and Townsend

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

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

78 Public Participation (maximum of three minutes per person)

There were no comments from members of the public.

79 Apologies for Absence

The Committee received apologies from Cllr Swaffer (personal). The absence of Cllr Doughty was noted.

80 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

81 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 26.11.24 as a correct record. The Chair signed the minutes.

82 Community & Environment Manager's Report

The Committee received the Community & Environment Manager's report and noted several payments since the previous meeting:

- 4363 Christmas event-related expenditure £87.04 (C&E Equals card),
- 4365 VE Day 80th anniversary flag £64.26+VAT (C&E Equals card),
- 4180 Marshlands Road allotment site - padlock for the standpipe 17.41+VAT and £2.95 postage,
- 4306 C&E IT hardware upgrade £168.83+VAT.

83 Committee Budgets 2024/25

The Committee received the month 10 Committee budget and the current earmarked reserves.

84 Committee Objectives 2024 and 2025

- a It was noted that seven of the eight 2024 objectives had been completed and that work towards the local resilience objective would continue into 2025.

RESOLVED to approve a heritage recording procedure pertaining to the 2024 objectives.

- b **RESOLVED** to adopt four main objective categories for 2025: local resilience, heritage recording, ranger services and Christmas celebrations.

RESOLVED to agree objectives and outcomes as detailed in paper CE7/84b.

Chair's initials and date:

85 Community Event Donations

- a A report relating to the 2024 Christmas event was considered.

RESOLVED to delegate authority to officers both to organise the 2025 Christmas lights switch-on event and to commit any related expenditure up to the maximum budget.

RESOLVED to earmark any funds remaining from the Christmas 2024 event as a reserve for 2025 to cover any unexpected costs.

- b The Committee reviewed the Community Events Donations Policy and **RESOLVED** to approve the policy without amendment.
- c Cllr Ruscoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 85c on the grounds of being a member of the Neston Village Fair Committee.

The Committee discussed options for supporting annual community events during the financial year 25/26 as per the Community Events Policy and **RESOLVED** to:

- offer a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee in support of the 2025 village fair subject to C&E Committee approval of a costed project outline;
- offer a donation of £1,500 to Neston Female society for the provision of entertainment at the 2025 Ladies Day parade subject to C&E approval of a costed project outline;
- offer a donation of £1,000 to Friends of West Vale Park in support of the 2025 West Vale Park Family Fun Day subject to C&E Committee approval of a costed project outline (reduced amount due to underspend at the 2024 event);
- assign a maximum of £1,000 to cover publicity costs for the spring 2026 Neston Music Festival (publicity to be undertaken in the 25/26 financial year);
- assign a maximum budget of £9,000 for a Christmas event on 29 November 2025;
- contribute £500 to support events in Neston Library as part of the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge.

86 Community Grants

The Committee reviewed the Grants Policy and **RESOLVED** to approve the policy without amendment.

It was agreed to review the policy again in September 2025 when consideration would be given to increasing the maximum grant application levels, along with the amount allotted to the grants budget, with a view to implementing any increases from April 2026.

87 Community Partnership Steering Group (Neston & Willaston)

The Committee received a summary of the meeting held on 20.11.24.

88 Marsh Working Group

The Committee considered a record of the meeting held on 15.01.25 and the accompanying end of year monitoring report. It was noted that the Quayside dredging works would be rescheduled for autumn 2025.

Chair's initials and date:

89 Allotments

- a **RESOLVED** to increase allotment rent by 3% for the year 2026/27.
- b **RESOLVED** that allotment site mains water should be provided between March and October, with the option to delay the March turn on date should freezing conditions be forecast to continue beyond the end of February.

90 Railway 200

The Committee considered information about the Railway 200 project and noted that the Town Council would be sharing any relevant information via social media and also that project details had been emailed to Friends of Hadlow Station. It was decided that no further action would be taken.

91 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would held be on 8 April 2025 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Signed _____ Date _____