

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday 9th March 2020 at 19:00
Virtually Via Zoom**

Present: Cllr R Frost (Chair), Cllr C Shepherd, Cllr A Bubb, Cllr B Anderson, Cllr R Anderson & Cllr A Watkins.

In Attendance Mrs Scanlon (Communications Officer)

459 Apologies

It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr J Stokes.

460 Declarations of Interest

None received.

461 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 9th of February 2021.

It was resolved for the minutes to be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record. Councillor C Shepherd advised the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the 25th of February had been circulated by the Clerk but could not be approved as they are not an agenda item for tonight's meeting and requested them to be on the next Environment agenda.

462 Rangers

Councillor Bubb advised the Rangers were not yet operational again due to Covid. Councillor Watkins enquired as to what the Rangers do. Councillor Bubb said the County Council employ a team of workers to visit Parishes to undertake various duties three to four times a year.

462 Current Financial Position.

Councillor Shepherd stated this would be the last Committee meeting before the end of the financial year. She advised there had been an overspend on the Cleaning contract as additional work had been requested by the Council. Councillor Bubb asked if it was due to Covid, Councillor Shepherd advised Covid cleaning was only carried out on the play area and was paid for through the Covid Reserve. The additional cleaning was for the dog bins. Streetlight Maintenance also showed as an overspend due to a column having to be replaced unexpectedly.

Councillor Shepherd reported there would be an excess of funds at the financial year end that would be vired to General Funds.

Councillor Bubb asked if the excess funds could be used to purchase new Christmas lights. Councillor Shepherd said there is currently no budget for Christmas lights therefore spending for new Christmas lights would need to from the project reserve.

463 Areas of Responsibility

(a) Bus Shelters/Bus Stop

Councillor Frost advised there was nothing to report.

Councillor Shepherd said the Hunstanton Road Bus shelter may need to be replaced. Councillor Bubb asked, as it is metal framed shelter, was it possible to just replace the plastic. Councillor Shepherd suggested this is something that could be reviewed next year.

(b) Streetlights

Nothing to report.

- (c) **Grasscutting**
Nothing to report.
- (d) **Cleaning**
Nothing to report.
- (e) **Litter bins**
Nothing to report.
- (f) **Seats and Benches**
Councillor Frost advised the cleaning of seats and benches is ongoing.
- (g) **Dog waste bins/sponsorship**
Councillor Frost advised all sponsorship was now up to date.
Councillor Bubb asked if the dog bins on the sports field and near Iveagh Close were being emptied. Councillor Shepherd advised it had been too muddy to empty the bin near Iveagh Close and that Mrs Scanlon had received an email from a Parishioner who had advised that the Borough Council had attempted to empty the bin on the sports field but had not been able to gain access as the gates were locked. Councillor Shepherd reported she had been to the sports field. The gates were open and the bins were only half full.
- (h) **Footpaths and Walkways.**
Nothing to report.
- (i) **Tree Warden**
Nothing to report.
- (j) **General Village Environment –**
Councillor B Anderson asked who owned the land opposite Tropics Fish and Chip shop, where vehicles are regularly parked. A resident in the area required access to the grassed area to enable Openreach to lay cabling for WIFI however those that park their vehicles had refused to move them. Councillor Bubb said the land was owned by Highways and suggested Norfolk County Councillor Dark be notified of the situation. **It was resolved for Councillor B Anderson to contact Councillor Dark.**
Councillor Shepherd reported there is a large amount of litter in and around the ditches and dug outs on the sports field. She had spoken to the Vice Chairman of the youth football team who was aware of the litter problem and was keen to assist in a joint litter pick with the Parish Council. She proposed that we do one of our annual litter picks on the playing field and the necessary kit be borrowed from the Borough. Councillor Bubb reminded the Committee that if litter bins were provided the waste may then be deemed as “Trade Waste” for which there would be a cost for collection.

464 **The Warren.**

- a) **Update on seating – Councillors Frost and Bubb.**
- b) **Native trees – Specifications.**

Councillor Shepherd advised it was now too late in the season to consider planting trees and proposed the item be deferred until autumn. Councillor Bubb suggested the Committee should consider what trees would be needed and place an order to ensure they arrive in good time for planting. Councillor Shepherd advised the Clerk had the

quotes received regarding the purchase of the trees but nor species had yet been agreed.

Councillor Watkins asked if there was an area in the village for Blossom trees to be planted as part of the "Circle of blossom trees" project run by National Trust. Councillor Shepherd stated the Parish Council have no suitable land suitable available.

465 Dykes.

Councillor Bubb advised he had been contacted by a resident on Edinburgh Way to report rubbish dumped in the dykes fridges, mattresses, chicken wire etc which he had removed and taken to the recycling centre. He suggested inviting the Housing Association to install CCTV in the area. Councillor Shepherd thought fencing could be provided however Councillor Bubb felt this would not deter people throwing items over the fence. Councillor Shepherd proposed the item be deferred until the Clerk had returned to duties.

466 Christmas lights.

Councillor Frost advised a report written by Councillor R Anderson had been circulated and suggested after reading the report all the Christmas lights be removed from the trees and replaced. Councillor Shepherd advised she had spoken to Councillor R Anderson and thanked him for his report. It was decided once the electrics had been made safe an electrician would not be needed to remove the lights. Discussion was had regarding the installation of the replacements lights to avoid further damage to the trees. Councillor R Anderson suggested asking the contractors we select to install new lights be asked to also quote for the removal of the current lights as they would have the necessary equipment to do so. Councillor Shepherd advised she had researched local companies able to carry out the work and there was a specialist contractor based in Norwich. Councillor R Anderson agreed a contractor with expertise in the installation of lights on a growing structure would be needed. Councillor Shepherd suggested the contractors be contacted and a working group meet with them to discuss options for installation. Councillors Bubb, Frost and Shepherd agreed to join with Councillor R Anderson **It was resolved for Councillor R Anderson to contact the contractors.**

467 Wildlife signs – Councillor A Watkins.

Councillor Watkins gave a verbal report regarding wildlife signage available and said whilst she realised County Council had previously declined to erect more signage could this be reviewed again as a report from the Transport Secretary had been seen to encourage additional signage. Councillor Shepherd advised the Parish Council are not responsible for the A Roads and could only appeal against the County Council decision. Councillor Watkins also expressed concerns regarding the speed people travel resulting in an increase in wildlife being killed on the roads. **It was resolved for Councillor Watkins to contact County Councillor Dark expressing concerns and asking for County's support in the matter.**

468 Cycle path – Councillor J Stokes

As Councillor Stokes was not present the agenda item was deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting.

469 Recreation area.

a) Review of cleaning.

Councillor Frost advised the current cleaning procedures would remain in place until further notice.

b) Recreation Ground Charity.

Councillor Shepherd stated advice was needed to determine the Parish Council trustee status on the Recreation Ground Charity. The facilitator of the course the clerk and chairman had attended had offered verbally to supply more information for a fee of circa

£100.00, however after discussion at the Finance Committee meeting it had been agreed to defer the agenda item until a written quote had been obtained. Councillor Shepherd proposed Environment Committee also defer the item and this was agreed.

470. War Memorial and War Memorial Gardens

Councillor Shepherd advised the majority of the planting had now been done.

471. Use of Chemical sprays – Councillor A Watkins.

Councillor Frost stated he had contacted the Borough Council and had been advised Roundup was their recommendation for using on the weeds.

Councillor Watson gave a verbal report expressing concerns regarding the use of chemical sprays on the allotments with very little or no consideration to using natural products as an alternative. She suggested an article be written for Village Voice giving suggestions to promote nonchemical based replacements. **It was agreed Councillor Watkins would submit an article for Village Voice.** Councillor Bubb suggested Councillor Watkins contact the Chairman of the United Charities and request the subject of chemical sprays be placed on the next agenda.

472. Skatepark

a) Members to receive update.

Councillor Shepherd advised there was no further update. She had not yet received a site mobilisation (start) date and would therefore contact the contractor again.

Councillor Frost stated he had spoken with the gentleman thought to have further information regarding the donation from the former Youth Group, however he was unable to help.

473. Climate Control.

a) Report from Climate Change Working Party.

Councillor B Anderson gave the following report.

Notes of the Climate change meeting held at 6.30pm on 9th March 2021.

1. The meeting agreed that the objectives set last year could make no further progress until the current lockdown restrictions are eased.

2. The rewilding of part of the Warren was discussed. Councillor B Anderson presented the manifesto of *Rewilding Britain* and a list of criticisms of rewilding. The list was discussed at length and the meeting concluded that most of the objections did not apply to the Warren.

The two that do are set out here:

Erasure of environmental history

The environmental historian Dolly Jørgensen argues that rewilding, as it currently exists, "seeks to erase human history and involvement with the land and flora and fauna. Such an attempted split between nature and culture may prove unproductive and even harmful." She calls for rewilding to be more inclusive to combat this.^[70] Jonathan Prior and Kim J. Ward challenge Jørgensen's criticism and provide existing examples of rewilding programs which "have been developed and governed within the understanding that human and non-human world are inextricably entangled".

Harm to conservation

Some conservationists have expressed concern that rewilding "could replace the traditional protection of rare species on small nature reserves", which could potentially lead to an increase in habitat fragmentation and species loss. David Nogués-Bravo and Carsten Rahbek assert that the benefits of rewilding lack evidence and that such programs may inadvertently lead to "de-wilding", through the extinction of local and global species. They also contend that rewilding programs may draw funding away from "more scientifically supported conservation projects".

We concluded that with proper biodiversity investigation and avoiding both the inappropriate planting of trees and introduction of non-native species these criticisms could be avoided.

It was agreed that some way of involving local schools should be investigated and the support of interested local residents sought.

3. Councillor Bubb reported on projects being undertaken by the Borough Council in regard to decarbonisation.

Seven buildings were included in the first-round application, which was a High Level Assessment (HLA), as per the format of the bid. The buildings/sites and the proposed technologies are:

- Lynnsport - Solar Photovoltaics (SP) & Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)
- Downham Market Leisure Centre – Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP)
- St James' Pool - ASHP
- King's Court – ASHP, Timer clock controls
- Fairstead Community Centre – Loft insulation improvement, SP, ASHP
- Valentine Road offices, Hunstanton – Timer clock controls, SP, Loft insulation improvement, GSHP
- Council Depot (Factory 1), Hardwick – SP, cavity wall insulation improvement, GSHP

1.5 On 22 February, the council was notified that subject to meeting some further technical questions, the second bid for a further 4 council buildings had been successful. The second-round bid covered the following buildings and technologies:

- Oasis, Hunstanton - Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)
- Guildhall, King's Lynn – ASHP
- South Lynn Community Centre -ASHP, Solar PV
- Dutton Pavilion – Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP)

1.6 The reduction in carbon emissions from the overall project is estimated at a total of 494 tonnes per annum.

b) Cut a Tonne for 21 – Norfolk ALC.

Councillor Shepherd advised this is a scheme being run to allow individuals to reduce their carbon footprint by a Tonne through 2021 i.e., going car free, reducing the use of plastic bottles, reducing energy in the home where possible. She advised although this had been an item initially raised by the Clerk, she would progress the item through her Chairman's report to Full Council.

474. CIL Funding.

Councillor Shepherd stated a proportion of CIL payments collected by the Borough are passed on to the Parish Council. The Local Council have a duty to spend CIL income on providing, improving, replacing, and maintaining infrastructure that supports the development of the area. The recent purchase of the de-fib machine had been made from the CIL budget. She suggested, as the deadline is 30th April, a report be put together to request funding to replace some lamp columns within the village. Councillor B Anderson asked if Councillor M Shepherd could supply a list of lamps. Councillor Bubb suggested taking photographs of the lamps most in need of replacing to submit with the report.

475. Correspondence.

Councillor Frost advised no correspondence had been received.

476. Items for inclusion at the next meeting.

Approval of minutes of the Extraordinary Environment meeting held 23rd February 2021.

477. Any item for the website.

None.

478. Date of next meeting.

12th April 2021 at 7.00pm to be held virtually.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20:38pm.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved to adopt the following resolution: “That by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

479. Quotes for Christmas Lights Removal.

This item was dealt with under minute 466.

480. Contract’s renewal.

a) Cleaning Contract.

Councillors discussed the contract renewal quote/details received. **It was resolved to approve the quote received and to renew the cleaning contract for a three-year period. In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed for Councillor C Shepherd to write to the contractor.**

ACTION LIST

Cllr C Shepherd

- Investigate Christmas Light Options
- Include Cut a Tonne for 21 report in Chairman's report to Full Council.
- Write to contractor to confirm Cleaning contract renewal.
- Contact contractor to ascertain start date on Skatepark.
- Organise annual litter pick on the sports ground.

Cllr Frost

- To check re purchase of more logs for The Warren.

Cllrs Watkins

- Write an article regarding the use of Chemical Sprays and their alternatives for Village Voice.
- Contact the Clerk, Dersingham United Charities regarding an agenda item regarding the use of chemical sprays.
- Contact County Councillor Dark regarding wildlife signage.

Cllr R Anderson

- Contact suggested Norwich contractors regarding Christmas lights

Cllr Stokes

- To chase re Community Allotment

Cllr B Anderson

- Survey Concrete Lamp Columns
- Contact County Councillor Dark regarding access to land opposite Tropics fish and chip shop for works to be undertaken by Openreach.

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/20 and 31/01/21 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/20.

		2020/21	Actual Net	Balance	2021/22
Environment					
Income					
400	Dog Bin Sponsorship	£600.00	£625.00	£25.00	£600.00
405	NCC Partnership Scheme	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
410	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
415	Precept	£19,410.00	£19,410.00	£0.00	£22,435.00
420	Bus Stop Donation	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income		£20,010.00	£20,035.00	£25.00	£23,035.00
Expenditure					
4000	Cleaning Contract	£2,000.00	£1,947.99	£52.01	£3,000.00
4005	Dog Bins	£100.00	£30.00	£70.00	£300.00
4010	Dog Bin Advertising	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	£60.00
4015	Dog Bin Emptying	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
4020	Grasscutting/Verge Maintenance	£3,300.00	£2,791.00	£509.00	£3,300.00
4025	Floral Enhancements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4030	Taskforce	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4035	Street Lighting Energy	£3,000.00	£1,896.78	£1,103.22	£3,000.00
4040	Streetlight Maintenance	£1,250.00	£1,051.30	£198.70	£1,250.00
4045	Streetlight Repair/Survey/New	£2,000.00	£2,389.96	£-389.96	£2,000.00
4050	Seats/Benches	£100.00	£20.00	£80.00	£100.00
4055	Village Sign	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4060	Bus Shelters	£250.00	£15.00	£235.00	£250.00
4065	Footpaths/PROW	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
4070	Trees	£2,000.00	£620.00	£1,380.00	£2,000.00
4075	Litterbins	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4080	General Maintenance	£1,500.00	£45.80	£1,454.20	£1,500.00
4085	Parish Partnership Scheme	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,825.00
4090	War Memorial Gardens Planting	£100.00	£390.00	£-290.00	£100.00
4095	War Memorial Maintenance	£1,250.00	£221.24	£1,028.76	£1,250.00
4100	War Memorial	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4105	Bus Stop	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£20,010.00	£11,419.07	£8,590.93	£23,035.00
Recreation					
Income					
500	Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
515	Income from Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
520	Fundraising	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
525	Recreation Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
540	Precept	£5,100.00	£5,100.00	£0.00	£5,100.00
Total Income		£5,100.00	£5,100.00	£0.00	£5,100.00
Expenditure					
5000	Recreation Water	£50.00	£50.51	£-0.51	£50.00
5005	Recreation Ground Electricity	£100.00	£54.00	£46.00	£100.00
5010	Playground Equipment - New	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5015	Playground Equipment - Maintenance	£2,500.00	£2,187.19	£312.81	£2,500.00
5020	Playground Inspection	£200.00	£114.00	£86.00	£200.00

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/20 and 31/01/21 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/20

		2020/21	Actual Net	Balance	2021/22
5025	Recreation Ground Maintenance	£1,000.00	£15.00	£985.00	£1,000.00
5030	Recreation Ground Grasscutting	£1,000.00	£773.50	£226.50	£1,000.00
5045	Recreation Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5050	Children's Activities	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5055	Christmas Activities	£250.00	£137.37	£112.63	£250.00
5060	Funday	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£5,100.00	£3,331.57	£1,768.43	£5,100.00
The Warren					
Expenditure					
8000	Warren Expenditure	£4,375.00	£1,218.00	£3,157.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£4,375.00	£1,218.00	£3,157.00	£0.00
Skatepark					
Income					
900	Skatepark Donations	£0.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
910	Precept	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,552.00
Total Income		£0.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£3,552.00
Expenditure					
9000	Skatepark Project	£0.00	£7,244.67	-£7,244.67	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£0.00	£7,244.67	-£7,244.67	£0.00
COVID					
Income					
1050	Covid Grant	£0.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
Total Income		£0.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
Expenditure					
10100	Covid Grant Monies	£10,000.00	£1,039.92	£8,960.08	£0.00