

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th September 2022 at 7.00pm, the Loft, Dersingham Village Centre

Present: Cllr R Frost (Chair) Cllr Bubb (Vice Chair) Cllr C Shepherd, Cllr B Anderson (left 8.50pm), Cllr R Anderson, Cllr A Watkins, and Cllr J Stokes.

In Attendance Mrs G Scanlon Communications Officer & Minute Taker and three members of the public (Public left at 7.20pm)

693 Apologies.

None received.

694 Declarations of Interest

None received.

695 Open forum for public participation

Cllr C Shepherd suggested bringing agenda item 6f forward to allow public participation. Each parishioner expressed their concerns regarding the proposed location of a new bench on highway land outside 1 Manor Road, including littering and anti-social behaviour. Parishioners reminded Councillors the same proposal had been made in 2015 and was rejected due to the same objections. Councillors discussed the objections and other possible sites for a new bench. **It was approved to refuse a new bench outside 1 Manor Road and for the parishioner requesting the bench to be contacted informing of the Committees decision.**

696 Minutes of the Environment meeting held 6h June 2022.

It was resolved for the minutes to be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

All action points were discussed and those completed removed.

- To enquire if the young offender's scheme is still active to a) paint the bus shelters, if not then to obtain quotes for the necessary work and b) paint the War Memorial railings. – Mrs. Scanlon advised she had contacted the Community Payback team to enquire if they are still available however there had been no response. Cllr C Shepherd said she had received an email from a Parishioner concerned about the condition of the paint in the bus shelter along Manor Road. After discussion it was agreed to obtain quotes to paint the bus shelter
- To update sponsorship for the dog bins. Cllr C Shepherd said it had previously been agreed to increase the sponsorship to £30.00 and for better signs to be purchased to avoid fading, therefore quotes would be needed for new signs.
- To contact Highways regarding replacement panel for the flashing 30MPH sign, Lynn Road.

Mrs Scanlon said she had spoken to Highways and the sign had been cleaned and was now working. Cllr Bubb thought the sign was not as bright as it had been previously.

697 Report on current financial position and reserves.

Cllr C Shepherd reported the current streetlight energy contract is on a fixed rate contract therefore it is predicted any overspend would be minimal. Cllrs discussed options to reduce the energy costs once a variable rate is applied.

Cllr C Shepherd advised due to the extremely dry weather and the high risk of fire, the annual cut of the grass on the Warren had been brought forward and would be paid from the Warren reserves as usual.

698 Areas of responsibility.

b Streetlights

Cllr C Shepherd requested a separate agenda item be placed on the next Environment Committee agenda.

c Grasscutting, update on grass cutting around the village sign

This item is covered under minute number 700

f Seats & Benches

This item is covered under minute number 695

g Dog Bins & Sponsorship.

This item is covered under minute number 696

j General village environment.

Cllr Bubb said he had contacted the landowner regarding the car park at the community centre requesting it be tidied/cleared. This was agreed.

699 Recreation area

a Recent play area annual inspection (ROSPA)

Cllr C Shepherd advised the ROSPA report had been received and circulated and there were no areas noted that needed urgent or immediate action. Cllr Bubb stated there had been various items ordered for the play area and had been stored in the office prior to lockdown. Mrs Scanlon agreed to check and report back to the committee any items held in the office.

b Recent Skatepark annual inspection (ROSPA)

Cllr C Shepherd advised the ROSPA report had been received and circulated. ROSPA had highlighted the cracks to the skatepark surface, therefore a copy of the report had been forwarded to Canvas Spaces, Cllr C Shepherd is to contact Canvass to discuss the matter. The graffiti on the skatepark had also been mentioned in the report and noted as "offensive". After discussion it was agreed the graffiti was not offensive and no action should be taken to remove it.

1. c Cleaning

Cllr C Shepherd proposed no longer cleaning the play area as all however all Covid restrictions have now been lifted. After discussion. **It was resolved to approve the proposal and for Mrs. Scanlon to notify Mr. English.**

d Five-year plan

Cllr R Anderson advised there was no update.

700 Report on Ragwort and Biodiversity

Cllr B Anderson had circulated a report on Ragwort and Biodiversity prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed the content of the report including findings that Ragwort was not dangerous to animals. Cllr Frost suggested the area around the Village sign, from the sign to the 8 mile stone, be cut more frequently to reduce the amount of Ragwort in the area. After discussion it was agreed for a group of Councillors to meet in early spring, once the Ragwort starts to grow again to pull the weeds up, before agreeing to further cuts in the area.

701 Progress the idea for a further defibrillator

A letter had been received offering a grant of upto £300.00 towards a new defibrillator. It had been suggested at the last Full Council meeting that a new defibrillator could be sited on the Mountbatten Estate. Cllrs discussed the options available and agreed that they were unlikely to be practical and not apply for the grant.

702 Tree replacement for recently felled tree at Sports Ground

Cllr C Shepherd reported a parishioner had complained about the felling of a damaged tree at the Sports Ground and said she had suggested that the Parish Council plant a

replacement tree however the complainant had not responded to her email. **It was resolved to not approve the planting of a replacement tree.**

703 Grass cutting contract renewal for the Recreation Ground

Cllr C Shepherd advised the current grass cutting contract is for a period of three seasons which ends this year and stated quotes would be needed for the next contract.

704 Update on the possible provision of a cycle path along the route of the discussed railway line from Ingoldisthorpe to Dersingham

Cllr B Anderson had circulated a document containing messages he had sent to Cllr S Dark requesting information regarding the proposed plan for the walking route of the old railway line between Ingoldisthorpe and Dersingham. To date there had been no response received.

705 War memorial and war memorial gardens

This item is covered in Minute number 696

706 Climate Change

a) Report from the Climate change Working Change

Cllr B Anderson advised there was nothing to report as the working group had not met.

707 Rangers

Cllr Bubb said the footpath outside 7 Centre Vale was in poor condition

708 Correspondence

a) Cllr C Shepherd reported an email had been received from Norfolk County Council (NCC) advising it is initially the Parish Councils (PC) responsibility to contact parishioners regarding overgrown hedging and trees and NCC will not act until the Parish's letter fails. It was agreed that Cllr C Shepherd should write to NCC to advise that the PC have no duty or powers to deal with such matters.

b) A parishioner had contacted the office regarding a piece of land outside his property on Phillip Nurse Road and wished to purchase the land. Cllr C Shepherd advised that the records showed it belonged to Highways and the builders of the estate and suggested the parishioner be advised to contact them direct.

Cllr C Shepherd advised the area near the pill box on Broadlands Close was overgrown, previously the Parish Council had arranged for the area to be cleared. Cllr Bubb said he would find the contractors details that had carried out the work previously.

709 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Streetlights

Parish Partnership

710 Items for publication on social media

None received.

711 Date of next meeting

3rd October 2022, 7pm in the Loft, Dersingham Village Centre.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council resolved to exclude the press and public, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of business discussed.

- 712 Agree contractor to fell willow tree on Lynn Road and Birch tree on Bank Road**
Councillors discussed the three quotes received. It was resolved to approve to accept the quote from Heritage Trees Specialists.
- 713 Agree contractor to supply and install basketball hoop at the Recreation Ground**
Councillors discussed the two quotes received. It was resolved to approve to accept the quote Online Playgrounds with Cllr B Anderson to be point of contact.
- 714 Agree a bench to be located on highway land in front of 1a Manor Road**
This item is covered by minute number 695

ACTION LIST

Cllr Shepherd

- Organise painting of War memorial Railings.
- Contact adjoining land owner regarding an additional seat at the Warren.

Business Manager

- To obtain quotes to repaint the bush shelters
- To obtain quotes for new dog bin sponsorship labels.
- To add Streetlights to the next agenda
- To add Parish Partnerships to the next agenda
- To enquire if the Young Offender's scheme is still active to paint the War Memorial railings and if not to obtain quotes for the necessary work
- To obtain quotes from a specialist company for repainting of the bus shelters in manor Road and Chapel Road

Mrs Scanlon

- To check if any play equipment is held in the office.
- To contact Mr English to notify him of the Committee decision regarding playground cleaning.
- Contact the Parishioner regarding the piece of land at Phillip Nurse Road.
- Email Parishioner to notify of the outcome to her request regarding a bench at Lynn Road end of manor Road.

Cllr Bubb

- To locate details of the contractor who previously cleared the pill box/Broadlands Close.
- To update sponsorship for the dog bins