

Environment and Allotments Committee



Kidsgrove Town Council
Victoria Hall
Liverpool Road
Kidsgrove
Staffordshire
ST7 4EL

Tel: 01782 782254

www.kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Environment and Allotments Committee Meeting held on the 6th February 2020, 7:00pm, Chairman’s Room, Victoria Hall

EA/19-20/5/1

Present

Cllr K Robinson, Cllr C Dickens, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr P Waring, Cllr J Waring, Cllr G Burnett, Mr D Plimbley (Swan Bank Allotments), Mr S Blaze (Crown Bank Allotments).

In attendance: Sue Davies, Town Clerk

EA/19-20/5/2

To receive and consider apologies for absence

Cllr H Maxfield and Cllr S Burgess had sent written apologies (both due to a commitment at NULBC).

Cllr Dymond had informed the chair beforehand that she would arrive late. (Cllr Dymond did not arrive prior to the meeting end.)

EA/19-20/5/3

To note declarations of Member’s Interests

None declared

EA/19-20/5/4

To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th October 2019.

The approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

EA/19-20/5/5 **Public Participation – A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments.**

None present.

EA/19-20/5/6 **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**

a) Footpath – Poplar Drive/Windmill Ave

Cllr J Waring raised that an application was submitted to have this path registered as a PROW several years ago. The clerk agreed to pursue this.

Action: The Clerk to pursue.

b) CCTV – Clough Hall Park

Cllr Robinson gave an update on the CCTV position. The Town Council has money in the budget for 2020-21. A visit from a supplier has provided information on redeployable systems as an option. A meeting is to be held with NULBC on the 18th February to discuss the matter. It was further noted that the current system needs further investigation as its current use and compatibility is uncertain.

It was noted that the CCTV provision in the town is under the Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee but updates in relation to Clough Hall Park are useful.

EA/19-20/5/7 **Allotments update:**

a) Crown Bank – To receive an update

i. Update on the lease progression (with Aspire Housing)

The Clerk reported that Blain Boland have been appointed to act for the Town Council. It was noted that the solicitors would look at all the issues that had been raised by Members as concerns such as the border issues.

ii. Update on Future Plans

The Clerk also informed that Ms Phillips of NULBC is pursuing the covenant issue on the lease of the land for expansion.

iii. Operation update from Mr Blaze

Mr Blaze provided an update:

- The Father Hudson project is ongoing. A small shed has been provided to help. The next date is 19th February.
- Mr Blaze is waiting for some chippings to extend the drive down.

b) Lamb Street – To receive an update

- i. Update on the removal of the asbestos and quotes received

Mr Plimbley and the Clerk reported on the quotes received for the asbestos removal. Further quotes are being organised. It was reminded that the purpose of the quotes at present are based around the need to know the costs. It was agreed to talk to NULBC regarding these costs.

With regards the corner that NULBC wish to retain ownership of, Mr Plimbley informed that he has evidence that there have been allotments on the piece of land historically. He was asked to pass on the evidence of this. The Clerk also informed that NULBC will require access to this piece to survey the trees.

- ii. Update on the transfer from NULBC

The Clerk reported from a meeting with Jackie Phillips of NULBC.

Ms Phillips is pursuing the transfer. She has reported to the Clerk that she is talking to the land registry to request that the transfer could be at reduced cost because the incorrect registration was a mistake.

- iii. Operational update from Mr Plimbley

Mr Plimbley reported two plots will soon be coming free which would reduce the waiting list from thirteen to eleven. There are currently 30 plots in total which comprise 20 full size and 10 half plots.

The orchard is complete and is a traditional British orchard. The interconnecting paths are also complete.

There is a new locking system in place based on cards. My Plimbley agreed to arrange access arrangements with the Clerk for the Town Council.

EA/19-20/5/8

Ranger Report: To receive an update from the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update. The Ranger contract has been approved at full council and discussions are ongoing to determine the day to day management protocol. The contract clearly states that his supervision is under Kidsgrove Town Council.

The insurance has been raised as an issue. Upon advice from Ellis Whittam the insurance requires clarification. Cllr P Waring suggested it might be more sensible for the Town Council to provide all the insurance for the Ranger apart from the van.

Ellis Whittam also raised lone working as an issue and suggested a tracker. The Clerk is discussing this issue with NULBC.

Action: The Clerk to continue to liaise with NULBC.

EA/19-20/5/9

Play Areas and Greenspace: To discuss progress and actions

Councillors have provided information on most of the Parish's play areas which needs to be collated into a report. It was agreed a small group (at least one member from each of the three larger wards) meet to discuss the information, to form a summary and some recommendations to bring back to the next Committee meeting.

It was agreed that funding streams need to be explored.

Action: The clerk to arrange the meeting

EA/19-20/5/10

Footpaths – To discuss progress and actions

It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire again if the PROW officer from Staffordshire County Council could attend a meeting.

It was further agreed that a working party is needed to move this project forward. Cllr Robinson, Cllr J Waring, Mr D Plimbley and the Clerk volunteered. It was further agreed that an email would be sent out to the Full Council to invite other members who may be interested.

Action: The Clerk to invite further members of the working party, to draft some Terms of Reference for consideration and to arrange a first meeting.

EA/19-20/5/11

Parish Baskets and Planting

a) To discuss plans for the 2019-20 planting

Cllr Robinson asked for the option of planters along the railings on the A34 to be investigated.

Cllr Cooper also mentioned the railings outside Dove House on Newchapel Road would benefit from planters along the railings.

Action: The Clerk to discuss with NULBC and price up the costs.

Cllr Burnett raised about the front of the Town Hall and Mr Blaze and the Clerk agreed to involve the Ranger and to have a look. It was noted that some of the shrubs are now too big.

b) To discuss Britain in Bloom and liaison with NULBC

Cllr Robinson reported that both Allotment sites had done extremely well in the Britain in Bloom awards. The Peace Garden also won an award.

Cllr J Waring through her role as portfolio holder at NULBC will be holding meetings with Britain in Bloom.

Mr Blaze informed of a meeting at the allotment site relating to Britain in Bloom on the 19th February 2020.

EA/19-20/5/12 To discuss progression of an Environmental Policy

The Clerk provided copies of some environmental policies from various local councils for comparison and to allow members to consider different aspects which the policy could include. It was agreed that the policy would be discussed further at a future meeting.

The Clerk also informed that Cllr J Smith from Alsager Town Council has offered to talk to the Council as she has extensive experience in this area.

Mr Plimbley suggested a survey of local people when some base work was complete.

Cllr P Waring suggested that the environmental policy and ideas should feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

EA/19-20/5/13 To review the Committee Terms of reference

The committee reviewed its terms of reference. There were no changes noted but Members were asked to contact the Clerk should they have any points to raise.

EA/19-20/5/14 Budget Review

The Council received a budget review. It was noted that unspent money earmarked for projects with are ongoing may need to be reallocated into the budget lines in April.

EA/19-20/5/15 Chair and Clerk's Items

None

EA/19-20/5/16 Future Agenda Items

- To consider ways of reducing single use plastics in the town
- Woodlands Trust – arrange a meeting
- Community Orchard schemes
- Wild flower meadows and bee gardens

EA/19-20/5/17 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 23rd March 2020

The meeting ended at 8:40pm.