

Environment and Allotments Committee

Kidsgrove Town Council
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Minutes of the Environment and Allotments Committee Meeting held on the Monday 20th June 2022, 7:00pm, at the Victoria Hall.

EA/22-23/1/1

Present

Cllr J Waring, Cllr G Burnett, Cllr P Waring, Cllr C Duffy, Cllr R Tait, S Blaze (Allotment representative), D Plimbley (Allotment representative).

In attendance: S Davies (Town Clerk) E Norton (Assistant Clerk)

No members of the public were present.

It was agreed that Cllr P waring open the meeting.

EA/22-23/1/2

To receive nominations for and to elect a chair for the committee.

Cllr J Waring was nominated and seconded to be Chair of the Environment and Allotment Committee for the year 2022 – 2023. No further nominations were received. Cllr J Waring was elected as Chair of the Environment and Allotment Committee for the year 2022 – 2023.

Cllr J Waring took over as chair of the meeting.

EA/22-23/1/3

To receive nominations for and to elect a vice-chair for the committee.

Cllr G Burnett was nominated and seconded to be Vice Chair of the Environment and Allotment Committee for the year 2022 – 2023. No further nominations were received. Cllr G Burnett was elected as Vice Chair of the Environment and Allotment Committee for the year 2022 – 2023.

EA/22-23/1/4

To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr S Dymond, Cllr A Gould.

EA/22-23/1/5

To receive declarations of Members' Interests

None declared.

EA/22-23/1/6

To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Thursday 28th April 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th April 2022 were approved.

EA/22-23/1/7

Public Participation – A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments. (No individual to speak for more than 2 minutes without the permission of the chair).

No members of the public present.

EA/22-23/1/8

Matters arising not covered elsewhere (updates only):

a) Allotment Fencing

The Clerk updated members that the fencing being installed at Crown Bank Allotments was now complete. S Blaze confirmed the allotment holders were happy with the standard of work. A request had come into the office that the gate may now be painted the same green as the new fencing. It was noted the office and S Blaze will work on obtaining costs for this. S Blaze also requested that the wall along the front of the allotments may now be removed. It was noted this would be discussed outside the meeting.

It was also discussed that an allotment visit would be beneficial for the councillors. The Assistant Clerk was asked to arrange this.

b) Telephone Box Oldcott Road.

The clerk informed members that the telephone box has been stripped down and refurbishment is being commenced.

EA/22-23/1/9

To review the Terms of Reference for the Committee and to agree any changes for recommendation to Full Council.

The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council to allow the delegation of approval of policies that relate to the daily running of Allotments sites, which do not affect the Town Council's governance or finances in any way, to the Environments and Community Committee. It was noted to correct a typo on the first line and the addition of 'reviewed by' date at the end of the document.

EA/22-23/1/10

To discuss and agree a committee meeting requirement and frequency for inclusion

in the Council's meeting schedule.

Discussions were had over the committee's meeting requirements, and it was agreed to hold 5 scheduled meetings over the year in April, June, September, November and February.

EA/22-23/1/11 To receive a budget update for the committee.

The committee received the budget update for the committee for the 2022-2023 financial year, and the clerk explained to new councillors the format of the document.

EA/22-23/1/12 To receive a list of current projects for the committee. To discuss and agree a plan.

A list of all current and planned projects were reviewed and the Clerk gave an overview of each project.

The Clerk was asked to continue with the work in regards the land transfer at Lamb Street Allotments as a priority, and to start to reconnect with NULBC and Staffordshire County Council regards the expansion at Crown Bank.

Water provision on allotments were discussed and it was agreed to defer this until the land transfer at Lamb Street and lease at Crown Bank has been resolved.

Composting toilets were also discussed and it was noted that the office would look into funding available currently via Staffordshire County Council.

Discussions were also had in regards to a rent overview. It was agreed that this should be looked at once the land transfer/lease have been resolved and whether water and toilet provision were going to be installed.

The project proposal to develop the land designated to the Town Council on the Newchapel Recreation Ground was discussed. Cllr P Waring and Cllr J Waring, along with Cllr R Tait when possible, agreed to work with the office to progress this further. The Clerk was asked to speak with the NULBC to arrange a meeting.

The Chester Road play area in Talke Pits was also discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would pursue in obtaining survey costs in regards the improvement of the park and will be worked through with the same task group as Newchapel Recreation Ground as well Cllr S Dymond.

Benches within the parish were discussed and the current locations being considered were Coalpit Hill and Pennyfields Road. Councillors were asked to send location suggestions into the office for them to pursue with investigating permissions with the relevant councils.

The Clerk gave an overview of the current Parish planting scheme. It was noted that a planter is planned to go onto Moorland Road once the permissions have been given from Aspire. As per the benches, further locations were requested from the Councillors and the office would pursue the necessary permissions. It was requested that councillors email into the office their suggestions for locations and the office would collate a table showing current existing planters, land owners and who keeps them with an image of its location. The additional information of potential locations could then be added for future consideration.

The restoration of the telephone box was agreed to be kept on the table of projects, stated as in progress with the work being assigned to Achieve Training.

The Environmental Policy draft will be completed by the Clerk following discussions with Cllr Dickens and Cllr Dymond, which will be brought back to the September meeting.

The repair shop suggested by a resident was raised. This project has not proceeded any further and it was agreed to remove this from the current project plans for the committee.

It was agreed that Livestock policies for the allotments will be added to the project plans for the committee.

EA/22-23/1/13

Allotment updates:

a) Allotments –General

It was also agreed a small task group would be set up to specifically to arrange the Allotment Show to be held at the Victoria Hall later this year. Cllr G Burnett, Cllr J Waring, Cllr R Tait and the two allotment representatives S Blaze and D Plimbley were assigned to this task group, along with a member of staff from the office.

b) To receive a verbal update from the Clerk and Allotment Manager–Crown Bank.

Allotments updates were covered previously in the meeting.

c) To receive a verbal update from the clerk and Allotment manager–Lamb Street.

Allotments updates were covered previously in the meeting.

EA/22-23/1/14

Green Spaces/Play Areas–To receive an update and to consider and agree any further actions.

This item was covered in the Committee Project Plan.

EA/22-23/1/15

Parish baskets and planting: To receive a verbal update on the progression of planting previously agreed and to consider any new locations.

This item was covered in the Committee Project Plan.

EA/22-23/1/16

Parish bench provision: To receive a verbal update on progress regarding permissions in the proposed locations. To agree any actions going forward and to authorise any required expenditure.

This item was covered in the Committee Project Plan.

EA/22-23/1/17 Ranger Report: To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on the Ranger's work and to agree any actions if required.

The lone working arrangements of the ranger were discussed. It was suggested that a tracker of some sort could be utilised. The clerk was asked to investigate the possible options with this.

EA/22-23/1/18 To receive any information items or correspondence received from the chair, clerk or members. (Note – strictly information only.)

S Blaze informed members of support available from two major energy companies, for the implementation of Wind Farms.

EA/22-23/1/19 Future Key Agenda Items

- Toilet provision at the allotment sites – As discussed within the committee's project plans.
- Livestock policies for the allotments – Added to the committee's project plans.
- Lighting in Bathpool Park – Removed from future agenda items.

EA/22-23/1/20 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th September 2022.

