

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Monday 2 March 2020 at 19:00
at The Loft, Dersingham Village Centre**

Present: Cllr R Frost, Cllr B Anderson, Cllr C Shepherd, Cllr B Hopkins, Cllr C Hipkin, Cllr S Osborn,
& Cllr A Bubb

In Attendance The Clerk and two members of the public.

Members of the public interjected throughout the meeting.

315 Apologies

Everyone present

316 Declarations of Interest

None received.

317 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 3 February 2020 It was resolved for the minutes to be signed by the Chair as a true record after the following amendments:

The main date was wrong it should read 3 February 2020.

305: Intention of selling.

309: Donor not Donator

The Clerk advised that these had been checked by several people prior to distribution.

318 Rangers

Cllr Bubb advised that he was still waiting to hear back from the Portfolio Holder regarding the Borough Council and leaves.

319 Current Financial Position (Please see attached)

The Clerk handed round the budget sheets and advised that these were up to the end of February. The Clerk advised that £15.38 had been received from E-On Energy she has been trying to get them to pay back for a long while and change the Direct Debit. The Clerk said that she had been advised that the tariff would change with the Smart Meter in place. After discussion **It was resolved to leave alone for a year and if the electricity was not used to discuss its removal.**

The Clerk reported that the insurance monies had been received from the knocked down streetlight it was just the 3rd party payment that was outstanding. The Clerk advised that she has negotiated with UK Power Network to reinstate the supply by the end of the month not October as per their quotation. The Clerk also advised that due to going over to dual authorisation for the payment of invoices and the sweeper system in place the Opus Energy invoice had not been paid in time.

A Parishioner present advised that perhaps solar panels could be placed to provide the energy for the streetlights. Cllr Anderson advised that at this present time it was not feasible

due to cost of batteries to store etc but something for the future as battery technology is rapidly changing.

320 Areas of Responsibility

(a) **Bus Shelters/Bus Stop**

Cllr Hopkins advised that the Bus Shelters have been painted but the contractor had advised that he had removed the flaky paint prior to painting but both shelters could do with being stripped right back but then rendering would be needed.

(b) **Streetlights**

Cllr Anderson advised that Streetlights numbered 5,10,11,12 & 13 all had rusty parts but that it was surface rust and could be removed with a wire brush and then painted. Cllr Anderson advised that the maintenance contractor should be able to undertake but best to wait until September/October time. Cllr Anderson then agreed to start the process of checking the concrete columns and then a replacement programme can be put in place.

Telegraph pole in Post Office Road. Highways have advised that the Council needs to take this up with BT. The Clerk had tried several different departments within BT but had not found the correct one yet. **It was resolved for the Clerk to purchase some reflectors.**

(c) **Grasscutting**

Nothing to report.

(d) **Cleaning**

Nothing to report.

(e) **Litter bins**

Nothing to report. Cllr Bubb advised that the new Borough Council waste contract starting in 2021 has an agreement that if a bin had not been emptied after a second reminder then a £500 fine is payable.

(f) **Seats and Benches**

Nothing to report. The Clerk handed round a copy of an email with a VE Bench that a company was offering. Cllr Shepherd advised that there is no space at the War Memorial Gardens.

(g) **Dog waste bins/sponsorship –**

The Clerk advised that sponsorship is due for renewal from end of June. **It was resolved for the new artwork for the two previously not taken up be placed by the Clerk.**

The Clerk reported that Highways had agreed to the bin outside the doctors to be moved to the grass verge on Manor Road around the corner from the office, but the Borough Council had not confirmed agreement. **It was resolved for the Clerk to chase.**

(h) **Footpaths and Walkways.**

Nothing to report.

(i) **Tree Warden**

Cllr Anderson advised that he and Cllr Shepherd had looked at all the village trees and were unable to find any veteran trees and had reported back to the Clerk of Dersingham United Charities.

(j) **General Village Environment –**

Cllr Hopkins advised that the Clerk had received an email previously circulated by the Clerk from the Borough Council advising that they were unable to empty the dog bin via the back of the Sport Field as someone had dug out the dyke and it was now a hazard. Cllr Hopkins confirmed that the dyke had been dug out and the rubble removed. Cllr Hopkins advised that the lady in question had put up signs and had blocked the path. Cllr Shepherd advised that the lady had no authority to undertake such work and the Clerk had advised L & H Homes as it was one of their tenants. Cllr Hopkins advised that the Borough Council could empty the bin from the Sports Ground Car Park. **It was resolved that the dog bin emptying is down to the Parish Council and as such needs resolving. It was decided to wait until L & H Homes had sent a representative and reported back to the Council. Clerk to check with Borough Council if they would be ok to use the Sports Ground Car Park going forward.**

Cllr Osborne advised that the 30mph sign on Heath Road was back in place.

The Clerk still working on Cold Calling areas and was hoping to report back at the next meeting.

The Clerk had been to the Feathers Public House and spoke to the Landlord regarding the spotlights, and he had advised that if someone has a problem please advise them to come and speak to him direct.

321 The Warren

Nothing to report. A member of the public asked regarding the bench. Cllr Frost advised that one was on order from Sandringham but was for free so had to wait for appropriate time.

322 Recreation area

a) RoSPA Playground Inspection Report.

It was resolved to remove to the end of the meeting excluding Press and Public.

323 Skatepark

Cllr Shepherd had gone back to the company regarding the tree growth survey and provided them with a 1-1250 scale drawing. Cllr Hipkin advised that he was currently looking at producing the Business Plan. Cllr Hipkin also advised the PC Maria Lambert had promised the monies left over from the Youth Group could go towards the Skatepark. Cllr Hipkin asked if the committee were happy regarding the use of concrete which is less noisy than metal etc, if trees are planted on The Warren to counteract. Everyone in agreement. Funding would need to be looked out once detailed drawings received.

324 Asset Risk Assessment

Cllr Anderson advised that he not been able to check the rusty bottomed dog bins but would try and undertake prior to the next meeting. **It was resolved for Cllr Anderson to check the two rusty bottomed dog bins and report back to next meeting.**

325 War Memorial & War Memorial Gardens

After discussion **It was resolved that Cllr Frost and Cllr Shepherd would attend the War memorial garden and assess what was required regarding cleaning, planting etc and would report back as the VE Day Celebrations would be soon upon us.**

326. Climate Change (Please see attached report)

Cllr Anderson advised that the meetings were going well. Cllr Anderson advised that the Council needed to address shredded paper that the office produces, and could it be used for animal bedding etc. The Clerk advised that she currently takes it home for this purpose and had no problem to continue to use. Cllr Anderson advised that ticks on of the boxes. Mr Stokes had undertaken research on biodegradable tree guards that reduces to lactic acid and carbon dioxide. Cllr Anderson agreed to purchase for his own use within his garden as a trial and would report back his findings. Mr Stokes also advised that a successful group called Church's Together had taken place and within a morning a large number of whips which were free of charge from the Woodland Trust were planted in an event called Tree of Hope. Cllr Anderson advised that the autumn was the first time to plant as now in nesting bird season. Cllr Anderson advised regarding the need to clean and sort the Solar Panels on the Dersingham Centre Roof. A neighbour was collecting Crisp Packets and some talk of being a collecting point and finally Hunstanton Town Council are undertaking a talk re Climate Change on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 2.00pm.

327 Correspondence –

All correspondence dealt with at appropriate time on the agenda.

328 Items for inclusion at next Meeting

Same agenda plus Bank Road.

329 Items for the Website.

Cllr Osborne advised that the Lynx Buses Timetable link from the website is currently down. **It was resolved for the Clerk to ask Mr Martyn to check.**

330 Date, time and venue of next meeting

6 April 2020 at 7.00pm at The Loft, Dersingham Village Centre, Dersingham

331 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing 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.

- a) RoSPA Playground Inspection Report. The Clerk advised the council of the details and cost of the three quotes received for the mulch under the bucket swing. After discussion **It was resolved to award the contract to Fenland Leisure but to be undertaken in brown to match the other side.**

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20:40pm.

ACTION LIST

Cllr Frost

- To survey the War Memorial Garden with Cllr Shepherd.

Cllr Shepherd

- To survey the War Memorial Garden with Cllr Frost.

Cllr Anderson

- To check the two dog bins with rusty bottoms.

Clerk

- Purchase some reflectors for the Telegraph Pole in Post Office Road.
- Put new dog bin sponsorship stickers in place.
- Chase Borough Council re dog bin move from Doctors entrance to around the corner from the Village Centre.
- Ask the Borough Council re dog bin on the Sports Field could be emptied from the Sports Field Carpark.
- Raise order for Mulch with Fenland Leisure.

Notes of the Climate Crisis Working Party held at DVCA on 3rd February 2020.

Present:

Cllr B Anderson, Cllr B Hopkins, Cllr C Osborn, Cllr C Shepherd, Mr J Stokes.

It was agreed that the inaugural meeting would look primarily at short term objectives i.e. those we could achieve fairly easily.

Cllr Anderson said that we should remember that Climate Change was part (albeit a very large part) of a greater crisis of biodiversity loss and that the greatest risk was less the loss of iconic species than the loss of entire ecosystems.

Paper.

It was agreed that we should seriously consider moving from paper to tablets for the information traffic of the Council, but for the moment we had to reduce the type and amount of paper used.

Recycled paper should be used as the energy cost and the amount of both air and water pollution was significantly less than that produced by paper made from virgin pulp.

All printing should be double-sided as default.

Page layout adjustments should be made to avoid single-line "overflows" onto another sheet.

A reliable estimate of paper use should be made as soon as possible.

I have a note here about the use of shredded paper which I can't recall....

Trees.

A tree-planting scheme should be developed for autumn/winter 2020.

The idea of a community orchard on part of the Warren should be reconsidered.

The policy of keeping an uncut margin around the Warren pond should be expanded to include tree-planting in the margin - probably Willow and Alder.

The search for tree guards of benign biodegradability should continue.

DVC.

The layout and number of PV panels on the roof should be examined and a rota for cleaning them established.

Water butts should be installed to utilise rainwater run-off from the roof.

A very substantial case would have to be made if DVCA wished to install air-conditioning.

A long-term plan to reduce the use of propane should be considered.

Next meeting;

2nd March 2020 at 6pm at DVC ...probably in the loft.

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/19 and 29/02/20 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/19

		2019/20	Actual Net	Balance
Environment Income				
400	Dog Bin Sponsorship	£600.00	£725.00	£125.00
405	NCC Partnership Scheme	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
410	Misc	£0.00	£2,363.91	£2,363.91
415	Precept	£19,910.00	£19,910.00	£0.00
420	Bus Stop Donation	£4,000.00	£1,200.00	-£2,800.00
Total Income		£24,510.00	£24,198.91	-£311.09
Expenditure				
4000	Cleaning Contract	£2,000.00	£2,058.48	-£58.48
4005	Dog Bins	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
4010	Dog Bin Advertising	£60.00	£25.99	£34.01
4015	Dog Bin Emptying	£3,000.00	£2,462.72	£537.28
4020	Grasscutting/Verge Maintenance	£3,300.00	£3,026.00	£274.00
4025	Floral Enhancements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4030	Taskforce	£0.00	£9.16	-£9.16
4035	Street Lighting Energy	£2,000.00	£2,447.81	-£447.81
4040	Streetlight Maintenance	£1,500.00	£1,104.95	£395.05
4045	Streetlight Repair/Survey/New	£2,000.00	£1,237.00	£763.00
4050	Seats/Benches	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
4055	Village Sign	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4060	Bus Shelters	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
4065	Footpaths/PROW	£100.00	£80.50	£19.50
4070	Trees	£2,000.00	£450.00	£1,550.00
4075	Litterbins	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4080	General Maintenance	£2,000.00	£1,174.00	£826.00
4085	Parish Partnership Scheme	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4090	War Memorial Gardens Planting	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
4095	War Memorial Maintenance	£1,250.00	£1,249.88	£0.12
4100	War Memorial	£0.00	-£9.16	£9.16
4105	Bus Stop	£5,000.00	£1,200.00	£3,800.00
Total Expenditure		£24,760.00	£16,517.33	£8,242.67

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/19 and 29/02/20 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/19

		2019/20	Actual Net	Balance
Recreation Income				
500	Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
515	Income from Events	£0.00	£15.38	£15.38
520	Fundraising	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
525	Recreation Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
540	Precept	£6,875.00	£6,875.00	£0.00
Total Income		£6,875.00	£6,890.38	£15.38
Expenditure				
5000	Recreation Water	£75.00	£35.53	£39.47
5005	Recreation Ground Electricity	£150.00	£66.00	£84.00
5010	Playground Equipment - New	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5015	Playground Equipment - Maintenance	£2,500.00	£1,082.48	£1,417.52
5020	Playground Inspection	£200.00	£114.00	£86.00
5025	Recreation Ground Maintenance	£2,000.00	£160.00	£1,840.00
5030	Recreation Ground Grasscutting	£1,500.00	£403.52	£1,096.48
5045	Recreation Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5050	Children's Activities	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
5055	Christmas Activities	£250.00	£70.00	£180.00
5060	Funday	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£6,875.00	£1,931.53	£4,943.47
The Warren Expenditure				
8000	Warren Expenditure	£4,375.00	£1,309.00	£3,066.00
Total Expenditure		£4,375.00	£1,309.00	£3,066.00
Skatepark Income				
900	Skatepark Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure				
9000	Skatepark Project	£0.00	£250.00	-£250.00
Total Expenditure		£0.00	£250.00	-£250.00