

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on
Monday 12 April 2021 held online at 7 pm**

Present: Cllr Robert Frost (Chairman), Cllr Brian Anderson, Cllr Robert Anderson, Cllr Tony Bubb, Cllr Coral Shepherd, Cllr Jordan Stokes (to item 13/para 493) & Cllr Ann Watkins. The Locum Clerk, Luisa Cantera, was also in attendance. There were no members of the public present.

Cllr Frost opened the meeting followed by a minute's silence in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who died on 9 April 2021.

481 To receive and consider apologies for absence

All councillors were present.

482 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None received.

483 To approve the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 9 March 2021

It was resolved for the minutes to be signed by the Chairman as a true record without amendment.

484 Open forum for Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

485 Matters arising – any updates from committee members

Cllr B Anderson reported that he had completed the inspections of the concrete lamp columns. There are cracks in base of two lamp columns in Valley Rise. There is one in Crest Road and another in Station Road that are the same design so these are likely to have the same issue. The Parish Council agreed to ask for a grant of £10,000-12,000 to replace five lamp columns via the Community Infrastructure Levy application process. The Locum Clerk was asked to find out from K&M how much they would charge to replace the cracked doors.

463j – Waste/litter/fly-tipping: Cllr Bubb reported that County Cllr Stuart Dark is trying to make the situation more user-friendly.

465 – Dykes: County Cllr Dark has said that he is willing to arrange for the dyke that runs behind the Edinburgh Estate to be cleared and then inform the landowner it is their responsibility going forward.

Cllr Shepherd reported that she is planning a litter pick at the Sports Ground on 17 April but due to Covid-19 restrictions only up to 6 people can be involved.

Cllr Watkins reported that she had contacted County Cllr Dark regarding a hedgehog sign and was awaiting his response. She will ask the Village Voice

to publish an article asking drivers to be careful to avoid running over hedgehogs on the village's roads as they come out of hibernation. Cllr Watkins will also contact the allotment holders to ask them to avoid using chemicals if possible to help support the hedgehog population.

486 Rangers

The Highway Rangers are not currently working in communities.

487 Current financial position

Cllr Shepherd explained that the Parish Council might want to consider a small increase in budget in 2022-23 although overall in 2020-21 there had not been an overspend.

488 Areas of responsibility

8f – It was agreed that the Parish Council will laminate plans so that the contractor knows exactly where seats and benches are located. Cllr Frost will check up to see if happy he is with the work.

8j – The sign on the Common has now been repaired.

8g – Dog bins: A member of the public asked for a dog bin to be moved nearer gate on Station Road. The Council agreed to leave the dog bin in its current location. Cllr Shepherd will write a brief article for the Village Voice about use of dog bins. The Locum Clerk was asked to inform the resident of the decision not to move the dog bin.

489 The Warren

A member of the public sent photographs of the tree trunk (intended for sitting on) at the Warren showing damage to the bark. Councillors agreed to meet next week at the Warren to agree where to site two further tree trunks and examine the damage to the existing trunk.

490 Recreation Area

The recreation area continues to be popular with families. It was agreed that the cleaning regime will continue for the time being.

491 War memorial and war memorial gardens

The planting has been completed. The Councillors agreed that the area is looking much better now although the brick weave needs to be sprayed. The Locum Clerk was asked to send a thank you to David Doman.

492 Skatepark

The construction work for the new skatepark is on track to begin at the end of May. A new resident of Inglesthorpe has asked about the future of the basketball hoops and whether a basketball court or hard surface is planned. New hoops will be installed as part of the project but the surface around the hoops will continue to be grass as the area is only intended to be for practice shots rather than basketball games. The Locum Clerk was asked reply to suggest that they contact their local parish council to see if they would accommodate the request at Inglesthorpe.

493 Climate Change Working Party

The Working Party has not met since the last Environment Committee meeting in March but plans to meet shortly. The members are Cllrs B Anderson, Cllr C Shepherd and Cllr Stokes; it was agreed that Cllr R Frost will join this group. A discussion on electric charging points will be added to the next agenda.

494 Christmas tree lights update

Cllr R Anderson reported that he had been looking into replacement Christmas tree lights for 11 trees. He spoke about stand-alone LED colour changing lights, fixed coloured LED lights and floodlights that can be mounted onto the fence. The Committee agreed for Cllr R Anderson to purchase one floodlight (approximately £30-40) to see how it looks.

495 Correspondence

15a – One million trees campaign being promoted by Norfolk County Council: Councillors will discuss the possibility of additional tree planting when they meet at The Warren shortly.

15b – Request for grass verges to be cut at junction of Chapel Road and Manor Road: The Parish Council's grass cutting contract includes grass between the ditch and the wall. It was agreed that the contractor carries out one cut per year. The contractor will be asked to remove the grass cuttings. The Locum Clerk was asked to write to the correspondents to ask that they leave the vegetation as wild flowers are growing there.

496 Items for the website

There were no items suggested for the website.

497 Items for the next meeting

The County Councillor's offer of a contribution towards a trod from Lynn Road onto the Common will be added to the next meeting agenda.

The next meeting will be held on 10 May 2021 at 7 pm at the Dersingham Village Centre.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Action list

Cllr C Shepherd

- Apply for a £10,000-12,000 grant for 5 replacement lamp columns.
- Organise a small-scale litter pick at the Sports Ground for 17 April.
- Write a brief article for the Village Voice about use of dog bins.

Clerk/Locum Clerk

- Contact K&M Lighting for quotation to replace cracked doors on concrete lamp columns.
- Reply to resident who asked about moving a dog bin on Station Road.
- Reply to resident who sent photographs of the damaged tree trunk in the Warren.
- Inform contractor that the Council wishes to continue with cleaning regime at the recreation area.
- Write to thank David Doman for his work at the war memorial/gardens.
- Write to correspondent who requested improvements to the surfacing beneath the basketball hoops.
- Ask grass cutting contractor to trim the grass in the ditch close to the church once a year and remove cuttings.
- Write to correspondents who requested the ditch mentioned above is trimmed.

Cllr Bubb

- Explore County Cllr Dark's suggestion of arranging for the dyke that runs behind the Edinburgh Estate to be cleared and report back to next meeting.

Cllr Watkins

- Write an article about hedgehogs for Village Voice and contact allotment holders to ask them to avoid using chemicals if possible.

Geraldine Scanlon (office member)

- Laminate plans for contractor so that he knows where seats and benches are located.

Cllr R Anderson

- Purchase one floodlight for tree to see how it looks ahead of committee making final decision on Christmas tree lighting for 11 trees.

Next agenda for the Environment Committee

- Add discussion on trod from Lynn Road onto the Common.

Next agenda for the Climate Change Working Party

- Add discussion on electric charging points to next agenda.