

**Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm, the Loft, Dersingham Village Centre**

**Present:** Cllr Bubb (Chair) Cllr C Shepherd, Cllr B Anderson, Cllr R Anderson, Cllr A Watkins and Cllr J Stokes.

**In Attendance** Mrs G Scanlon Communications Officer & Minute Taker

**657 Apologies**

It was resolved to accept apologies from Councillor R Frost.

**658 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**659 To approve the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It was resolved for the minutes to be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.**

**660 To approve the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was resolved for the minutes to be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.**

**661 Current Financial position.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised the financial budget comparison had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Bubb stated he was disappointed the relevant financial paperwork had not been circulated and asked if the Precept money had been received. Councillor C Shepherd confirmed it had.

**662 Reserves.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised Reserves documentation had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

**663 Areas of responsibility.**

**a Bus Shelters/Stops.**

Councillor Stokes stated the bus shelter opposite the Feathers needed painting. Councillor C Shepherd said she had received correspondence from a resident stating the white paint was now flaking off showing the original green paint underneath. Councillor Bubb asked if Mr English could carry out the works needed or if quotes were needed. Councillor C Shepherd suggested quotes be obtained. Councillor Bubb suggested making enquiries regarding the young offender's scheme to ask if they were able to do the work. It was agreed for the Clerk to enquire if the scheme is still active, otherwise quotes would need to be obtained.

**b Streetlights.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised a three year contract with K&M Lighting for the street light maintenance had been agreed.

**c Grasscutting.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised the contractor who carries out the grass cutting had requested an 8% increase to cover the rising fuel costs. Councillors discussed and resolved to approve the increase.

**d Cleaning.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised Councillor Stokes had raised the issue of a bench located at the War Memorial which needs cleaning. She said the cleaning of benches was part of Mr English's contract. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr English and ask him to clean the bench

**f Seats & Benches.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised she had received a further email from a resident from Hanover Court asking the Parish Council to reconsider the outcome of her request for a bench at the Lynn Road end of Manor Road. After discussion Committee agreed to reconsider a bench in the area. Councillor C Shepherd said she would establish who owned the land suggested for the bench and would ask the Clerk to obtain prices for a bench.

**g Dog Bins & Sponsorship.**

Councillor Bubb asked if the dog bin sponsorship had been updated, it was agreed to ask the Clerk to update sponsorship.

**i Tree Warden.**

Councillor B Anderson stated no Councillors had volunteered to be Deputy Tree Warden at the last Full Council meeting. **It was resolved to approve Councillor Watkins as Deputy Tree Warden.**

**664 The Warren.**

Councillor Bubb expressed concerns regarding the trees recently planted on the Warren asking if they have been watered as there had been very little rain and advised he has been watering the newly planted tree by the village sign. Councillor C Shepherd said she has watered the new tree on the recreation ground, and she had delivered the spiral guards to the parishioner who had requested them and as agreed at the previous Environment Committee meeting.

Councillor C Shepherd stated she had received an email from a parishioner who had raised concerns the log seat on the Warren had been vandalised. Councillor B Bubb said the bark had naturally come away from the log. Councillor C Shepherd said she would contact Mr Hickling requesting an update on the other log bench due to be placed on the Warren.

**664 Recreation area.**

**a Review of cleaning.**

Councillor C Shepherd asked if the Committee wished to continue with the cleaning of the play area. Councillor Stokes proposed the cleaning remained in place until September as the play area will be continually used throughout the school holidays. **It was resolved to approve the proposal.**

**b Five Year Plan.**

Councillor R Anderson asked if there had been work carried out on the gate closers at the play area as the gate is unable to be secured due to the slider missing. Councillor C Shepherd advised this has been reported and an update is expected.

Councillor R Anderson advised the Clerk had tried to obtain 7 quotes for the replacement of the basketball hoops, however only two had been received. The quotes obtained were considerably higher than the Committee had budgeted for, therefore Councillor R Anderson proposed, as part of this year's plan, a new single basketball hoop be purchased and installed and next year a hard surface be considered around the hoop. **It was resolved to approve the proposal and for the Clerk to obtain quotes for a new basketball hoop and installation.**

Councillor C Shepherd reported she had received an email from a Parishioner asking the Parish Council to consider erecting combined Rugby/Football posts on the recreation ground. Councillors considered the area to be inappropriate for rugby posts as there is a high risk of the ball being kicked over the fencing and into the surrounding roads. Councillors discussed the removal of the existing goal posts and agreed this would be discussed as part of next year's plans.

Councillor C Shepherd advised the yearly ROSPA check is overdue on the play area and skatepark and said she would speak with the Clerk to arrange an inspection.

**c Removal of Basketball Hoops.**

Councillor C Shepherd said, as the Committee had agreed to obtain quotes for a new basketball hoop, she would ask the Clerk to contact local scrap metal merchants to come and dispose of the existing hoops.

**665 War Memorial & War Memorial Gardens.**

**a Painting the railings.**

Councillor C Shepherd suggested the railings be painted after the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Councillor Bubb suggested, if the youth offenders' scheme is still active, they could be asked to help with the painting, if not volunteers would be needed. **It was resolved to approve to ask for 4 volunteers to paint the railings after the Jubilee celebrations, if the young offender's scheme is no longer active.**

**666 Climate Control.**

Councillor B Anderson advised there had been no meeting, therefore he had nothing to report.

**667 Rangers.**

No items were to be reported to the Rangers.

**668 Streetlight Survey.**

**a Report.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised a report written by Councillor M Shepherd had been circulated, which detailed issues raised for both the concrete and steel columns. Quotes received for Glebe Road replacements had been £985.68 per column and the quote from UK Powernetwork, including discount was £6448.00 for the four columns, making the total expenditure £10,390.72 which would replace columns 9018, 9019, 9020, 9021 on Glebe Road. **It was resolved to approve the replacement of these four columns and to recommend to Full Council 50% of the funding be taken from the Project Reserves and the remainder from General Fund.**

Councillors discussed the previously approved column replacements at Valley Rise 9029 and 9030, Jubilee Drive 9031, Crest Road 9043, and Station Road 9048, for which a grant has given from the Borough Council. Having reviewed this 9043 and 9048 have no immediate risk therefore it was agreed to proceed with the remaining three columns but to ask the Clerk to discuss with UKPN their quote regarding their replacement to see if a further discount could be applied to the replacement column on Jubilee Drive. It was also pointed out that columns 9136 and 9141 on Edinburgh Way also needed to be replaced, therefore Councillor C Shepherd proposed she approaches the Borough Council for their agreement to replace 9136 and 9141 instead of 9043 and 9048.

Councillor C Shepherd proposed a site meeting be held with K&M Lighting, the Clerk, Councillor Bubb, Councillor R Anderson and herself to look at the cracked concrete columns and discuss if a metal sleeve could be put in place for the deteriorating columns or if a replacement is needed.

**b Response to Questions.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised more advice regarding the concrete columns was needed and the steel columns needed to be prioritised, as once they deteriorate, they soon become dangerous.

Councillor C Shepherd proposed working with K&M Lighting to establish a list of those columns that need priority attention this year.

**c UK Powernetwork Quotes**

This item was discussed under minute 668a.

**d Glebe Road Quotes.**

This item was discussed under minute 668a.

**669 Bank Road Parking.**

Councillors discussed the parking along Bank Road and the concerns raised by residents and whilst there may be parking issues, there is little more the Parish Council can do as it is a private road with adequate signage, however it is not enforceable, which the residents have previously been advised.

**670 Correspondence.**

Councillor C Shepherd advised the Clerk had received notification of a TPO at 6 Doddshill Road.

Councillor Bubb reminded the Committee the bin collection day has changed.

Councillor C Shepherd reported the Borough Council had issued information about "Norfolk Warm Homes" and the poster had been placed on the noticeboards.

**671 Items for inclusion at the next meeting.**

None requested.

**672 Facebook items.**

Councillor C Shepherd said she would ask the Clerk to post the Queens Platinum Jubilee events on Facebook.

**673 Date of next meeting.**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.00pm, Loft, Dersingham Village Centre.

**ACTION LIST**

**Cllr Shepherd**

- Organise painting of War memorial Railings.
- Contact Mr. Hickling regarding the seating at the Warren.

**Clerk**

- Email Parishioner to notify of the outcome to her regarding her request for a bench at Lynn Road end of Manor Road.
- 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.
- To contact local scrap metal merchants regarding the disposal of the existing basketball hoops.
- To contact Mr. English and ask him to clean the bench located in the War Memorial Gardens.
- To update sponsorship for the dog bins.
- Organise a site meeting to include the Clerk, Councillors C Shepherd, Bubb and R Anderson and K&M Lighting to discuss the condition of the concrete columns.