



Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council

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"Seek The Common Good"



Minutes of the Environment and Services Committee meeting held on 18th July 2024 at 7.30pm at Tower Hall

CHAIRMAN: Mr J Wright

PRESENT: Mr J Wright, Mr R Whiting, Mr M Newton, Mr R Nunn, Mr B Ward, Mrs Odam, Mr Westrup

APOLOGIES: Mr K Driver (Unwell) Mr D Francis (Another Commitment)

CLERK: Mr Massey. Minutes taken by Mr Massey

ALSO PRESENT: Member of the Public 1

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr Wright asked for nominations for the Environment and Services Committee for the forthcoming year. Mr Wright was proposed by Mr Nunn and seconded by Mr Whiting with ALL in favour. There being no other nominations Mr Wright was duly elected as Chairman of the Environment and Services Committee.

2. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL OF ABSENCE, PROTOCOL AND CONDUCT REMINDERS

Mr Wright reminded Councillors of the Code of Conduct, protocol for debate and statutory rights to film, record, photograph or otherwise report on the proceedings of the meeting.

Mr Whiting proposed approval of the apologies as listed above. Seconded by Mr Nunn. Resolved with ALL in favour.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25th April 2023

Mr Newton proposed acceptance of the Environment and Services Committee minutes held on Thursday 25th April. Seconded by Mrs Odam. Resolved with ALL in favour. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR INTEREST

Mr Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in SCL, Acorn Trees and Greenways.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. To Identify Public Participation with Respect to Items on this Agenda

A resident raised queries over Item 6a. To consider and agree remedial works on the trees opposite Kelvedon Play Area. The resident informed councillors that the trees are not only over hanging the footpath and covering the streetlight but they are also overhang into their property by 2 meters. Mr Wright informed the resident that the matter would be taken into consideration under item 6a and ensured the resident that the matter would be dealt with in the correct manner.

b. Public Forum – Members of Public/Parish Councillors May Speak on Any Matter

Mr Ward highlighted concerns over Footpath 51. The clerk informed councillors that there has been no response from Debbie Adams since the matter was raised to her.

6. ALLOTMENTS

a. Report by Allotment Manager

Mr Westrup reported that the allotments are in good repair during a busy growing season. SCL landscape management has a few outstanding jobs to complete and the Clerk will chase them. The allotments are full and only residents from outside of the Parish are on the waiting list.

Councillors noted this.

b. Report Back on Community Hut

The Allotment Manager/Clerk informed Councillors that the base has been laid. Allotment holders have started to erect the hut, which is looking very well. The hut is half way up with just the roof to go on

Councillors noted this.

c. Other Matters

None.

7. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

a. To consider and agree remedial works on trees opposite Kelvedon Play Area

The Clerk informed Councillors that a resident has complained about overgrown trees adjacent to the lamppost opposite Kelvedon Play Area. The Branches of the trees are blocking the streetlight. The land is owned by the Parish Council.

A quote for the works was sourced from SCL Landscape Management as they are the current contractors responsible for the play area at Kelvedon and they have provided excellent service. No other quotes were sourced.

SCL Landscape Management quote for the trimming back of the branches around the Street Light: £95 Ex VAT

SCL Landscape Management quote for lifting the branches on the trees the whole way down the path: £195 Ex VAT

In light of the information supplied by a resident under agenda item 4a Public Participation. This agenda item is to be deferred, until amended quotes can be sourced to allow for the additional works to be taken into consideration.

Councillors Noted this.

b. To consider and agree replacement battery for the defibrillator at the village hall

The Clerk informed councillors that the battery for the defibrillator at the village hall needs replacement. Three quotes were sourced for batteries:

-St John Ambulance: £233.33 + VAT

-JAX First Aid Supplies: £223.00 + VAT

-Defib Warehouse: £223.00 + VAT

Mr Whight proposed that a replacement battery be purchased from JAX First Aid Supplies at a cost of £223.00 + VAT. Seconded by Mr Ward. Resolved with ALL in favour.

c. To consider and agree applying for tree packs from the Wildlife Trust

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council can apply for tree packs from the Wildlife Trust. The packs are free and there is an offering of various packs available. Since 2018 Suffolk Tree Warden Network, the Woodland Trust (WT) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) have been working together. As part of our unique partnership, they give out free tree and hedge packs to Councils and Community Groups to support locally planned and delivered tree planting initiatives. Applications for the Packs closes on the 26th August. Councillors discussed this.

Mr Whiting proposed that the item be deferred to the Parish Council meeting on the 15th August so all Councillors have the opportunity to discuss the proposal. Seconded by Mr Whight. Resolved with ALL in favour.

d. To Consider and Agree 3-year contract for clearance of ponds

The Clerk informed Councillors that the contract for clearing of Limes Pond and Chestnut Pond needs renewing. It is suggested to enter into a three-year contract for this. The last year Greenways was appointed to do this. Three quotes were sourced but unfortunately the quotes have not yet been received so this item needs to be deferred until the quotes have been returned.

e. To Consider and Agree 3-year contract for clearance of wildlife strip at The Street

The Clerk informed Councillors that the contract for clearing and management of the wildlife strip at The Street needs renewing. It is suggested to enter into a three-year contract for this. The last year Greenways was appointed to do this. They are caring for the environmental managements of the strip and have provided excellent service in the past, therefore no other quotes were sourced.

Greenways three-year quote for the management of the wildlife strip: £210 year 1 £220 year 2 £230 year 3.

Councillors discussed this.

Mr Westrup proposed that Greenways be appointed at a total year cost of £660 Ex VAT to clear and manage the wildlife strip at The Street for a three-year period from July 2024 to August 2027. Seconded by Mr Nunn. Resolved with ALL in favour.

f. To recommend implementation of bee café project on Rushmere Commons

Mr Wright informed Councillors of Mr Paul Martin's proposal of Bee Cafes which form part of the bee corridor he is implementing in Suffolk. The full proposal was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Officers have approach Cllr Lawson and he is willing to look into funding for the implementation of the project. Councillors discussed this.

Mr Whiting recommended that the Parish Council cease to work on this project as the land in question belongs to the Rushmere Commoners and the site of the proposed Bee Café is out of Rushmere St Andrew Parish. Seconded by Mrs Odam. Resolved with MAJORITY in favour.

g. Update on Woodbridge Road Rewilding Project

Mr Wright reported that residents have been complaining about the appearance, but he had assured them that contracts are in place to maintain and manage the site. Due to the weather, there has been an abundance of growth. Work which is scheduled to clear out the back near the hedgerow has been postponed due to illness, but this will be completed. Mr Wright will report back at the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors noted this.

8. ROADS, VERGES AND FOOTPATHS

a. To Report on Speed Indictor Devices and Speedwatch

Mr Wright provided Councillors with a report on SIDS and Speedwatch in the parish particularly on Foxhall road and Playford Road.

Councillors noted this.

9. CORRESPONDENCE & ANY OTHER MATTERS

a. To Note Correspondence received

The Clerk Reported correspondence received from residents relating to Kelvedon Play Area. Councillors discussed this and Mr Wright will make arrangements to meet with the residents who have requested this.

The Clerk Reported correspondence received from Greener Waldringfield. Councilors discussed this. Mr Ward proposed the funds of £15 left over from the previous meeting be retained by Greener Waldringfield in readiness for the next meeting. Seconded by Mr Nunn. Resolved with ALL in favour.

The Clerk Reported Correspondence from a resident concerned with the parking on Audley Grove. Councillors discussed this. The clerk is to respond to the resident informing them that the road is unadopted and not maintainable by the council.

10. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.