**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 3 January 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, Sarah Cheese, Diana Standing, and Assistant Clerk/RFO Laura-Jade Schroeder**

**Minutes**

1. **To note apologies**

Cllr. H Lusty

1. **Sarah Cheese declared a potential interest in item 17**
2. **There were no dispensations requests**
3. **There were no additional members of public present (other than committee members)**
4. **The minutes of 1 November 2022 were proposed and unanimously agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting, subject to two changes made re: item 9 – it was not the inaugural day as there have been many working party days, and item 18 should read FoD Climate Group.**

**Cllr Getgood signed the minutes as a true record.**

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 3 May 22**

More public members on this committee would be welcome.

Re: Cannop Ponds meeting has been sought, but with no response. Meeting agreed to be put on hold and CTC will await the report early this year following the meeting FE had with FoDDC.

Re: item 7 - It was requested that the Environment Committee remit is added to the top of the agendas in future to remind members.

Re: item 8 recommendation 1 - We are still awaiting further quotes

Re: item 8 recommendation 2 – Cllr Elsmore is progressing

Re: item 9 recommendation 1 – it is too late in the year to do a wildlife area cut now

Re: item 9 recommendation 2 – Cllr Getgood has created a sign and all agreed this is acceptable

Re: item 10 – Trees were bought and planted. Ash dieback needs progressing

Re: item 12 recommendation 1 – Cllr Elsmore will progress this

Re: item 12 recommendation 2 – CTC will continue to progress this

Re: item 13 – Cllr Getgood will give the office something to go on the website

Re: item 15 – Office will seek quotes for new updated audit for the Cemetery and Bells Field

Re: item 16 – Cllr Getgood will send photos to the office to add to the website and create a poster for Bells Field

1. **To Review implications of Environmental Audit Report from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

After some discussion, it was agreed to invite GWT to an Environment Committee meeting to discuss with us what we can do to make a difference, based on this report.

1. **To review Cemetery matters, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

The poster created by Cllr Getgood will be put up. Office staff will be attending training by ICCM soon. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendations:**

1. **To seek a quote for a contractor to cut the leylandii and tree over the lychgate**
2. **To approach Monmouthshire County Council for a one-off cut and collect at the cemetery in August. The cemetery contractor will be asked to strim around the graves as normal afterwards.**
3. **To review Bells Field Recreation Ground Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

After some discussion, it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendations:**

1. **To ask our current contractor for a quote for a cut and collect at Bells Field in mid July**
2. **To ask our current contractor for a quote to clear the swales**
3. **To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan tasks, bringing into line with office tracker system, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

This will be brought into the next meeting and reviewed on the screen during the meeting.

1. **To receive update on tree activity, across the Parish, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Trees for Angel Vale were decided previously – Cllr Getgood to contact Leaf Creative to order based on recommendation from last year.

Urban tree activity is still being progressed by FoDDC.

Trees along highway by Lidl are being progressed by GCC and will be discussed at the Highways meeting this month

It was agreed to link with FoDDC and GCC to discuss more trees along Coalway Road.

1. **Update on volunteer actions, and to make further recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr Getgood will send photos to the office to add to the website.

1. **Updates on other Parish Issues with Environmental implications, and make recommendations, as necessary**

FoDDC are dealing with the tree on the cycleway from The Main Place behind the Co-op.

1. **Updates re: wider FoD Environment meetings, forums, activities, and other environmental groups; to take forward actions into Plan, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Nothing to report

1. **To consider specialist speakers, and make recommendations re: invitation**

Shaun Freeman has expressed an interest in coming to talk to the Environment Committee – scheduled for February. Also office to request GWT to give further advice based on their report – also February.

1. **To receive Monmouthshire Meadows Group re: specialist advice on a range of matters, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Dean Meadows will do a presentation in the spring.

1. **To consider the environmental implications re: Angus Buchanan grant application funding, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Sarah Cheese updated on the plans. Cllr Getgood will meet with ABVC Rec Ground members and check but the Environment Committee is happy for this to proceed.

1. **To receive update on Environment Committee expenditure, and make recommendations, as necessary.**

Only £700 spent so far. Further expenditure planned before this year end:

* 1. Tree Audit for Bells and Cemetery
  2. Wildflower seeds – Bee squared – Cllr Getgood to seek quote
  3. Ordering of trees for Angel Vale
  4. Swales clearance
  5. Copper Beech sign replacement
  6. Clip signs – Cllr Getgood to send costs
  7. F&AM committee to agree expenditure on flat signs in Cemetery to mark sections

**Meeting ended at 7:55pm**

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