**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 4 Apr 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, Sarah Cheese, and Fliss Simister**

**Public Forum: Debbie Sturgess**

1. **Apologies received from Cllr H Lusty**
2. **There were no declarations of interest**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **To take comments from the Public Forum**

Debbie Sturgess discussed the maintenance work at Angel Vale. It was agreed that this needs to be looked at in more detail, but she said a youth worker will be speaking to the children about the damage that they are causing to trees.

1. **To approve the minutes of 7 March 23**

**The minutes of 7 March 23 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

**Cllr. Getgood signed, as a true, and accurate record**

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 7 March 23**

Re: Seed swap organised by Coleford Grows – this has gone ahead. The raised bed area they have identified also looks fine. The path by the Main Place (against the wall closest to the building) may need to be widened by GCC.

Re: Environment Tracker Review – this will be rescheduled for 12th April at 10:30am. A new action plan will be started with the new Council once elected in May.

Re: Climate Change Strategy with Marcus Perrin – CTC will become one of the partners. He has not yet been in contact with us – this was his action from the recommendation.

Re: Electric car chargers on Gloucester Road – no objections have been heard at FoDDC. Fast chargers are hoping to be installed in the car park.

Re: Cemetery Open Day – link with Dean Meadows and defer to the new committee

Re: Bells Field – can the contractor remove the thorny hedge by the bike track and replant along the gaps in the hedge line, or we could obtain free trees from GCC.

Re: Volunteer party work - KGV rubbish and ivy needs to be removed and trimming back around the Angus Buchanan fence. Volunteer working party will meet at 9:30am on 16th April.

**6:57pm Debbie Sturgess left the room**

1. **To hear from Guest Speaker (if available)**

We are waiting to hear availability from various speakers.

1. **To review Cemetery matters, inc. Grass Cutting and Collecting, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllrs Getgood, S Cox and Sarah Cheese will meet with the contractor to clarify the position re: arisings and if they do not want the job, then the two other contractors who have quoted for it will be discussed at F&AM.

1. **To review Bells Field Recreation Ground Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Picnic tables are in progress and will be installed soon.

The Bells Field contractor will be working on clearing the swales – check they are clear about being careful with the surface underneath

Water butts have been agreed

1. **To review KGV Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

The volunteer working party is happening – as previously discussed.

Men’s Shed organisation – could they relocate to the KGV?

1. **Update on Parish Tree activity, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

After some discussion, it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: For Cllr S Cox to do internal mapping before contracting this work out**

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

There is a one-off work party in the KGV and on the Angus Buchanan hedge. It would be nice to have a regular volunteer group to keep green spaces nice.

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

Regarding Bee Squared free wildflower seeds: enquire whether Thurston’s Rise residents association would like some.

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

The membership to Dean Meadows and Monmouthshire Meadows was discussed and it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: For CTC to subscribe to both Dean Meadows and Monmouthshire Meadows**

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

After the specialist speaker on herbicide and pesticide use has visited, we will talk to contractors about the use of these.

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

No update as no new expenditure

**Time: 7.39pm Meeting ended**