**Environment Committee**

**6 April 2021**

**7.00 pm - 9.00pm**

**(Via Zoom)**

**Minutes**

**Attendees: Cllrs. Simister, S Cox, Elsmore, Johnson, Beard, Mr W Williams**

**Sarah Cheese, Felicity Herniman, Kathy Sandles, Caroline Silverwood-Taylor,**

**Cllr. M Cox, and Debbie Sturgess**

Cllr. Simister welcomed attendees, and new members of the public, explaining the formalities, summarising discussions so far.

1. There were no apologies received.
2. There no declarations of interest
3. There were no dispensation requests.
4. The minutes of 6 March 2021 were agreed.
5. **To raise matters from the minutes of 6 March 2021**

**Item 11:** Cllr. M Cox updated on Ash Die back, referring to, and appreciating, Paul Rutter’s comments on this matter.

Other matters arising covered within the agenda items.

1. **To take comments from the public forum**

Debbie Sturgess introduced herself, as a member of the public, explaining her involvement, and links, with the town council, and its activities, stating that she had a keen interest in environment, bio-diversity, matters and, as a resident on the Angel Vale estate has taken an active interest in the tree issues in that area.

1. **To receive updates, and make recommendations re the updated Environmental Action Plan (see attached)**

Cllr. Simister presented the revised Action Plan, facilitating discussion point-by-point, as each item was considered, in turn. The Plan was updated accordingly, through discussions, and it was proposed, unanimously, that

**Recommendations:**

1. **the revisions, to the Action Plan are adopted, and that: the Master version of the Environment Action Plan would be formally updated, following agreement at this meeting, by Cllr. Simister, and to then be held in the Main Office, with the Assistant Clerk, as ‘gatekeeper’.**
2. **the Action Plan would be presented, at each Environment Committee, for review, focussing on monitoring priorities, with updates of specific others as necessary.**
3. **To receive updates, and make recommendations re working group activities:**
   1. **Communications and Publicity**
   2. **Coleford Town Council Environmental Policy**
   3. **Data collection re environmental audit**
   4. **Volunteering**

***Actions:***

* **the draft Environmental newsletter article had been circulated, the small group to finalise’**
* **Environmental Policy redraft was noted, and has been sent to CTC with comments back to Cllr. Stuart by 13th April**
* **Data Collection group to progress collation, and make enquiries with Gloucestershire Wildlife Fund, and ERC re quotes for parish specific data on biodiversity**
* **CTC to obtain large memory stick to capture all data collection material**

**Note: A number of other updates, and actions, were noted, and captured under Item 7**

Amongst the discussions, following Felicity Herniman’s update on school survey work, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

**The ‘full’, Survey Monkey survey resource tool, should be considered for purchase, by the Town Council, for environmental survey work, but for wider usage across the town council’s activities.**

**An extension of 10 minutes was proposed, and unanimously agreed.**

1. **To receive updates, and make recommendations (if necessary) re enhancing the town gateways**

Cllr. M Cox updated, and reported the site visit, subsequent application for license and proposed tree location sent to Brian Watkins, Highways for comment. No response as yet.

1. **To receive updates re: wider FoD Environment meetings, forums and activity**

Cllr. S Cox updated on the Forest Climate Group meeting that he had attended, which included a speaker re: sustainable farming, and production. From 10-3pm on 24 April a Food Growers Fair will be held outside Cinderford Health Centre Valley Rd by Forest Food Group who are seeking to empower growers of food: seeds, plants, advice available. See publicity.

Fliss Herniman also reported on activities in other areas e.g. Stroud, who are working with Exeter University

1. **To receive updates. and make recommendations (if necessary) re: implications of ash dieback across the parish**

Cllr. M Cox updated on ash dieback activity, across the parish, and its emergence, as an issue, within planning applications, as well as within parish activity, working with residents e.g. Lawdley Road.

**Meeting ended at 9.10pm**

**Appendix A**

**Revised Action Plan to be added**