**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 7 February 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, Cllr H Lusty Sarah Cheese, Fliss Simister, and Assistant Clerk/RFO Laura-Jade Schroeder**

**Minutes**

1. **There were no apologies**
2. **No interests were declared**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **Shaun Freeman from Coleford Grows updated on plans to have raised beds on the land near the Main Place that were in discussions right now. Coleford Grows may seek a grant to fund these 3 planned raised beds. GCC have requested that they be on legs to be accessible. Any work to be done will involve local people and businesses, and Men’s Shed and the Rewild Project would potentially repurpose timber for creation of the raised beds. Councillors advised on the potential widening of the path as a cycleway and requested bamboo markers be laid once a location is decided upon, so that they can check appropriateness of the location.**
5. **The minutes of 3 January 2022 were proposed and unanimously agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting, subject to Diana Standing being listed as a member of the public, not a member of the committee.**

**Cllr Getgood agreed to sign the minutes at a later date once the amend had been made.**

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

Re: Cannop Ponds, a public forum is being held on the 21st or 30th March. Cllrs Cox and Getgood attended a recent meeting and were not impressed. Since Forestry England have failed to acknowledge a request by Coleford Town Council to meet and discuss Cannop Ponds, it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To follow the line of FODDC and oppose the removal of Cannop Ponds.**

Re: item 9 recommendation 1 of Nov 2022 minutes – cut of the wildlife area – members will meet David Cox of Monmouthshire CC at Coleford cemetery on Monday of next week (13th Feb at 2pm) to discuss cut and collect and our requirements.

Re: item 9 recommendation 2 of Nov 2022 minutes – Cllr Getgood sourced some clip frames for signage. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To purchase the pack of 10 clip frames Cllr Getgood has sourced – costing approximately £50 in total.**

Re: item 12 recommendation 1 of Nov 2022 minutes – Cllr Elsmore will progress this tomorrow

Re: item 12 recommendation 2 of Nov 2022 minutes – Cllr Getgood will go to Parish Councils

Re: item 15 of Nov 2022 minutes – Office will seek quotes for new updated audit for the Cemetery and Bells Field – this is still to do, however there are more fundamental Tree Management processes to set up, inc. a tree stock survey, so this will encompass a better overall tree management.

Re: item 7 of Jan 2023 minutes – GWT environmental audit report – no response from GWT yet on request to provide further recommendations or support us in how to take action – office will chase.

**Note: At time of writing the minutes, this has now been received and sent out to the Environment Committee.**

Re: various quotes recommended at Jan 2023 meeting – the office are bringing them to F&AM for discussion on 21st February.

Re: item 15 – specialist speakers – Cllr Elsmore will speak to the FODDC Climate Emergency representative and the office will set up the meeting.

**Note: At time of writing the minutes, it has been agreed that the FODDC Climate Emergency representative, Marcus Perrin, will attend the next Environment Committee meeting at CTC on 7th March to speak with us.**

Re: item 18b of Jan 2023 minutes – Bee squared - Cllr Getgood is still waiting for a 3rd quote. She will also write a piece for the newsletter

Re: item 18c of Jan 2023 minutes – trees are being planted at Angel Vale on Friday at 10am - Cllrs S Cox, M Cox and M Getgood would be there. It was suggested that a flyer drop may be needed to residents nearby to ask for help with watering while the trees are still young.

Re: item 18g of Jan 2023 minutes – F&AM to review expenditure on Cemetery signage to mark the sections in February meeting.

1. **To consider Public engagement survey re: reducing Gloucestershire’s Transport Emissions, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

It was suggested that this should be publicised through the website or newsletter

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

There was nothing further to discuss as it was taken under matters arising

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

It was noted that trees will need to be kept watered and we will need to promote this in summer. It was suggested that Coleford Grows may potentially want to take this on.

The water butt purchase will be discussed at F&AM in February.

1. **To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan Tasks, bringing into line with office tracker system, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Fliss Simister will send the tracker to the office and will then meet with Cllr Getgood and Laura-Jade Schroeder on 28th Feb to align the existing tracker with the standard format office tracker.

1. **Update on Tree Activity across the Parish, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Planting at Angel Vale would be taking place on Friday, 8 trees from Trees in Towns project would be planted in the new financial year, trees being planted near to Lidl are in progress, nothing has been agreed by GCC re Coalway Road yet.

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

Cllr Getgood will set the next date for the working group at the Cemetery.

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

Nothing further to discuss

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

Cllr Getgood updated and will circulate the minutes of the FCN

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

Cllr Getgood will contact The Arboricultural Association based in Stonehouse.

The office will follow up with GWT following their report.

**Note: At the time of writing the minutes, this has been done and circulated to the Environment Committee members.**

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

Approximately £334 has been spent on trees planted Angel Vale and approximately £50 will be spent on clip frames for signage – pending F&AM and Full Council approval.

**Meeting ended at 7:38pm**

**All Council Meetings are Open to the Public**

**Coleford Town Council Working for You**