**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 2 July 2024**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Minutes**

**Present: Cllrs M Getgood, C Elsmore, P Kay, J Templeton, S Cheese**

Assistant Clerk – Laura Jayne, minute taking

1. **Apologies were received from Cllr S Cox and F Simister**
2. **There were no interests declared in items on the agenda**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **There were no members of the public present**
5. **The minutes of 7 May 24 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

**Cllr. M Getgood signed a copy of the minutes, as a true, and accurate record**

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 7 May 2024**

**Re: Tree Audit Update**: The tree audit for the King George V Recreation Ground (KGV) has been completed. The report is due within the next two weeks.

**Re: Baptist Church**: Cllr C Elsmore spoke to the appropriate contacts at the Baptist Church, who were unsure if slow worms were present.

1. **No guest speaker was available for this meeting.**
2. **To receive update on Climate Adaptation Plan, and make recommendations as necessary**

**Heat Alerts**: The handling of heat alert emails was discussed, for the office to decide how to use this information.

**Temperature Control**: Clarity was sought over the specification of the temperature devide. This resulted in agreement on installing a medium-sized, solar-powered temperature control systems, outside of the building.

**Water re-fill scheme:** Most traders are willing to participate; the office will compile a list of businesses and send the relevant forms back to the scheme.

Concern over water contamination was raised. However, it was agreed that the water being supplied from each trader will be clean drinking water, ensuring no safety concerns.

**Recommendation: To explore the cost of a digital temperature display to be placed on the outside of Coleford Town Council (4 Mushet Walk), to investigate whether landlord and planning permissions are needed and to update the resilience plan with actions for occurrences of extreme heat.**

**Unanimously agreed**

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

**Dog Waste Bin**: The LMMP mentioned the need for a dog waste bin in the cemetery. This will be investigated.

**Cemetery tree audit** has been completed, with quotes now being sought for any immediate tree works that need to be carried out. These include the felling of two trees.

**Waste Management**: It was agreed to request at least two black bins from Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) to simplify waste sorting. The current arrangement for emptying the third green bin will be checked.

**Recommendation: To continue work on bin management and maintenance**

**Unanimously agreed**

**Signage:** Large signs (8ft x 2ft) indicating what goes in each bin will be investigated; the office will look into quotes for these, to be on correx material.

**Topple Testing:** It was agreed to begin topple testing work in the Cemetery, whilst the office look into further information on this from the ICCM

**Recommendation: S Cheese proposed for an end of August grass cut by Monmouthshire Meadows, of the old part of the Cemetery**

**Unanimously agreed**

**Plastic Flowers**: An email will be sent by Melanie regarding the prohibition of plastic flowers.

**Recommendation**: **Reinforce the prohibition of plastic flowers within the Cemetery terms of use and encourage the use of natural, organic flowers instead**

**Unanimously agreed**

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

**Apple Trees**: The latest apple tree is thriving but requires watering.

A watering can, and hose are needed for transportation of water from the water butt.

**Weed Management**: The small crescent area near the swales, where apple trees grow, has weeds growing in between. To query if this could be maintained by Kilmaha.

**Recommendation**: Incorporate the small crescent area near the swales into Kilmaha’s schedule, pending their agreement of taking on as additional

**Unanimously agreed**

**Recommendation:** It was proposed to refer the pond liner back to Full Council in July and to check Shaun Hancox's updated quote.

**Unanimously agreed**

**Wildlife Area Grass**

**Recommendation**: To cut the grass early this month and remove it from the site. If this is not included in the current contract, Kilmaha will be asked for a quote. If Kilmaha is unable to do so, David Cox will be approached.

**Unanimously agreed**

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

It was noted to ensure that the orchid area remains safe during car park development.

1. **To review smaller green areas, and to make recommendations as necessary**

Cllr M Getgood suggested that it would be beneficial to keep the Environment committee informed of any relevant updates regarding initiatives or activities happening across other green spaces.

Angus Buchanan will be collaborating with an ecologist whose expertise are around funding applications, with a view to getting better return under the agricultural subsidy scheme. They will also be introducing winter grazing with cattle.

**Sylvan Close**: The hedge will be replanted at a 90-degree angle along the fence line.

**Lawdley Road**: Cllrs M Getgood and S Cox conducted a recent walkaround of the site. Cllr M Getgood updated members of findings.

**Actions**:

To monitor gap within the hedge.

To access the overgrown brambles at the back of the play area.

To investigate who empties the dog waste bin and sanitises.

1. **To receive update on complaints received, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Members were updated that a complaint had been received by the office.

It was noted that the contents of the complaint are being dealt with.

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

There were no updates on parish tree activity.

1. **To receive update on Volunteer actions, and to make further recommendations, as necessary**

It was noted that Volunteer activities are paused pending completion of GAPTC recommended updates to the Risk Assessment (RA) and induction.

Cllr P Kay and M Beard reviewed the RA and concluded that Volunteers will be required to read and acknowledge the RA. A system for collecting volunteers' names and addresses will be implemented.

Volunteer activities expected to resume autumn, following the holiday period.

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

The committee is awaiting Regeneration committee objectives.

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

Andrew Malifant Biodiversity updates:

New electric charging points will be installed in the main car park.

Newland car park will have its charging points reduced from four to two.

There has been no information from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) regarding further installations; Cllr C Elsmore will follow this up / to be raised at the next Highways committee meeting.

There was information shared from GAPTC around Allotments.

It was noted that there is a space available to attend the Wye Valley AONB. Anyone wishing to attend should inform the office.

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

No expenditures have been made so far this financial year.

**The next meeting will be in September.**

**Meeting Ended**: 19:47