**Environment Committee**

**Thursday, 12 October 2023**

**1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Minutes**

**Attendees: Cllrs M Getgood (Chair), S Cox, C Elsmore**

**Laura-Jade Schroeder (Town Clerk), and Laura Jayne (Minute taking)**

1. **Apologies received from Sarah Cheese**
2. **There were no declarations of interest**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **There were no members of the public present**
5. **The minutes of 5 September 23 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

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

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 5 September 23**

Re: bus shelter at Coalway

Bus shelter, with living roof has been ordered and in progress. No timescales as yet.

Committee to look into the aftercare of the living roof.

Re: shrinking pond at Bells Field

Now with F&AM.

Investigated with contractor of works, Afan Group, re. Pond liner.

They state that a clay bentonite liner was laid in accordance with the construction details, however are not able to provide evidence / proof of liner installation.

Now gone to Cllr Penny, to contact Fenella Bellinger.

Next step is potentially to dig to see if the liner is there, engaging with contractor to do this.

Go back to Shaun Hancox to ask to hold the quote while we investigate.

Could be added to October Full Council agenda, in order to progress quicker.

Pesticide and herbicide free areas:

Contractor at Bells Field agreed to the recommendation of leaving areas of Bells Field pesticide and herbicide free.

Re: Discussion with Co-op around providing a soft plastic recycling bin at the Cemetery -

Town Clerk has written to the Co-op. No response received.

Re: Recyclable wrapping for flowers - Cllr. Getgood to speak to local florist.

Cemetery:

Further cut and collect, to be done by Monmouthshire CC, cost out of Environment spend.

Bells:

Confusion over arisings being put in one big pile, vs a number of smaller piles.

Arisings pile now taken off site, by contractor.

In future, half of arisings could be collected and taken off site and half left in small piles.

Town Clerk explained that as this additional work produces expenditure and with the work being outside of normal contractual tasks, the collect can be recommended by the Environment Committee, but it will have to go to F&AM, due to it relating to contract management.

Cllr Getgood added, that to reduce the fertility and to allow growth of wild flowers, Yellow Rattle could be sewn.

Re: The Willow tree – This is now doing okay

Re: Pump track hedge – The Pump track hedge will be coming out soon, parts of this will be replanted in the gaps along the back hedge line.

Note: Anything extra re. Bells maintenance, contractor will invoice for.

KGV:

A volunteering session took place on Sunday the 8th of October.

The Dog bin is to be left until the post / bin degrades. Contractor will then replace the whole thing, which will then have a ‘Any bin will do’ sticker put on it, as we have used on other bins in the parish.

Complaints:

Town Clerk summarised that wider tree management is a big issue at the moment, with the need to develop a tree management policy, to include boundaries and clarity around what exactly CTC are responsible for.

Once boundaries are clarified, tree policy could be amended and sent round, as draft version.

Wider Parish tree activity, including complaints relating to Angel Vale:

Re: Overhanging trees at Angel Vale - F&AM are handling this, with the action to write to resident re: overhanging trees on neighbouring land, to see if there are any plans to maintain these trees. If there are no plans, clarity needs to be sought to understand who is then responsible.

Re: Tree Audit - Cllr S Cox has started mapping all trees of the Parish, starting at Old Station Way, moving into Bells Field, then looking at smaller green areas. Once completed, work can begin on a tree audit.

Cllr Getgood suggested the purchase of small discs, which would go on the trees, as a numbering system to help identify them.

To see how much the cost of 500 discs would be and whether they would be green or galvanised.

Cllr Elsmore to ask Forest of Dean District Council, whether they have any spare.

Re: Car wash - No updated from Cllr Kyne, regarding Car wash in Coleford.

1. **There were no Guest Speakers**

Ideas for future Guest Speakers: Someone from Forestry Commission

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

Re: Sarah Cheese’s email 3 days ago, relating to Monmouthshire County Council cutting the NBG. This was agreed due to the length of the grass, being a result of climate change.

**Recommendation: Another cut and collect of the NBG and old part of Cemetery by Monmouthshire County Council.**

**Note: To ask Monmouthshire CC back, as a guest speaker. To also see whether they have any further suggestions.**

Note: Boundary issues with the school / Cemetery

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

Town Clerk has emailed signage company, re. Wildlife area gate signage.

No ‘Welcome to the Wildlife area’ sign, as yet, however this could be covered by a ‘Welcome to Bells Field’ sign on the front gate – to go F&AM

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

Waiting on progression of Easement

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

No other official complaints received.

Town Clerk informed of issues with anti-social behaviour on the Angel Vale estate.

Residents have arranged for 10 new trees to be planted in the area, in order to help deter the children causing the problems.

Note: When these trees are planted, CTC will need to involve the contractor on the placement of those trees, to ensure that access can be gained, to mow the area.

Contractor to be involved in the conversation, along with the Residents and the Town Clerk.

Trees have been ordered, delivery early November.

Town Clerk added that there could be a potential problem with planting new trees on ‘yellow’ land, where SUDs could be underneath.

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

Hedges at Sylvan Close: Resident was pleased to receive an update from Cllr Getgood.

**Recommendation: With knowledge from the Horticulturist, to plant a green hedge would be appropriate and useful. Cllr Getgood has contacted Sarah Noons (GCC), who suggested a Portugese Laurel.**

Resident at Sylvan Close keen to do the maintenance of this hedge.

Decision made not to replace the 2 trees on Lawdley Road, which had been vandalised.

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

Slow Ways: To see if anyone is interested in downloading the app and walking the set routes.

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

Boundaries and lack of clarity are causing problems across all committees.

Cllr Elsmore suggested contacting FoDDC, as they sold us Angel Vale land and may know more regarding specifics.

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

Forest climate network – Cllr Getgood attends when can. Notes from meetings are published.

Climate Adaptation (with Marcus Perrin) - JBA Consulting have been appointed as the contractor that is going to create a tool kit for the towns.

There will also be monthly meetings on Zoom.

Forestry Commission - Meeting on the 2nd of November – Cllrs Getgood, S Cox and Elsmore will all be attending.

21st Oct - Our Forest

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

£1000.00 committed to Bus shelters

1. **To receive update on Environment Tracker, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Tracker to be looked at, this could be at the next Environment meeting.

**Meeting End 2:00pm**

**7th of November for next meeting.**

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

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