Coleford Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting

.

Issued: 2

9

 June

22

Environment Committee

Tuesday,

6

 July

2022

6.30pm – 8.30pm Council Chamber

Agenda

1. To select a Chair
2. To note apologies
3. To declare interests on items on the agenda
4. To allow dispensations requests
5. To approve the minutes of 7 June 22
6. To raise matters arising from the minutes of 7 June 22
7. To take comments from the Public Forum
8. To receive updates from Guest Speakers – Susan Parkinson and Nigel Leaworthy on ‘Nature isn’t Neat’
9. To receive update on tree activity, and planting, across the Parish
10. To receive updates on Parish issues, with Environmental implications, and to make recommendations, as necessary
11. To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan Tasks, and to make recommendations, as necessary
12. To consolidate volunteer actions, including partnering with youth organisations, and to make further recommendations, as necessary
13. To receive updates re: wider FoD Environment meetings, forums, activities, and other environmental groups; to take forward actions into Plan, and make recommendations, as required
14. To review Cemetery issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary
15. To review Office and overall Council Green Strategy, and to make recommendations, as necessary

# All Council Meetings are open to the public Coleford Town Council Working for You

CTC-Environment Committee 05-Jul-202203

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Meeting Commence: 18:30  | Present: Clive Elsmore (CCm), Melanie Getgood (CCm), Laura Jade (CtC), Fliss Simister (PCm) Heather Lusty (CtC), Stuart Cox (CtC), John Allen: Worcester Walk Volunteer (Public), Di Standing: Dean Meadows (Public), Nigel Leaworthy: Nature isn’t Neat (Guest Speaker), Susan Parkinson: Nature isn’t Neat (Guest Speaker)  |
| Agenda Item  | Notes  | Actions  | Recommendations  |
| 1. Elect a Chair  | Melanie Getgood elected as Chair of the Environment Committee  All in favour  |   |   |
| 2. Apologies  | None  |   |   |
| 3. Declare interests  | None  |   |   |
| 4. Dispensations  | Minutes approved for 04-Jun-2022   |   |   |
| 5. Approve Minutes  | Minutes approved for 04-Jun-2022   |   |   |
| 6. Matters Arising  | * Meadows Walk:
	+ About 12 attended
	+ Species photographed and posted on website
	+ Very positive feedback
	+ Burial ground in particular is looking stunning
* Task list for volunteers for recommendation.

Please comment on draft sent from Melanie, circulated by Laura * Green bins a concern in the cemetery –

filled with lots of detritus that is not green waste. Action needed (see item 14) * Bells Field Fence should have been removed
 | Di Standing: to communicate with volunteer about scything. Worcester Walk committee will be in touch  |   |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | • We have applied and been accepted on to the Tree Warden Scheme  |  |  |
| 7. Public Forum  | No comments made  |   |   |
| 8. Guest Speakers: Susan Parkinson and Nigel Leaworthy  | * History behind ‘Nature isn’t Neat’
* Pressure from community groups concerning verges
* Met with lots of opposition
* To win over public opinion and build support, roundabouts were used as colourful displays – seed from euro flora (Bee friendly mixes).
* Bedding perennials were replaced with an annual mix (saved money) £42,000 p/a saving
* First local authority to achieve ‘pollinator policy’. Lead initiate with other local councils to maintain green infrastructure

 * Nature isn’t Neat was a rural development programme.
* Community engagement important for community engagement and grass roots

support – mowing less and Bees for development * Focus on community engagement, adopting ideas in their own gardens.
* Art workshops in schools for signs (We’re feeding the Bees etc) = strong

visibility/presence  * Government funded cut and collect machines
* COVID stopped grounds maintenance. Saw verges grow during this period. Public were able to see the opportunity
* Cut paths through open spaces rather than

all of it * Frontline colleagues (contractors) engaged with training sessions to learn about the flowers that were in the grass
 | Clive to find out if District have any useful machinery  Committee to revisit once we have digested literature. Can we work with other councils moving forward?  Laura to send emails to FS  |   |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | •  | Authority gave them autonomy with guidance. Couldn’t direct each area wtc.  |  |  |
|  | •  | Surveyed so that public perception was measured  |  |  |
|  | •  | Feedback was that greenspaces were appreciated. Plus supported by Welsh Government policy  |  |  |
|  | •  | Volunteers engaged to monitor green spaces (biodiversity – pollinator data capture. Counted flowers and insects)  |  |  |
|  | •  | Lots of press releases and media engagement so that negativity was in a minority (even though they may have been louder voices)  |  |  |
|  |  •  | Training frontline teams – dealing with members of the public, literature around scheme etc  |  |  |
|  | •  | Now mapped as evidence for Welsh Government  |  |  |
|  | •  | Now expanded into Greater Gwent Green Grid  |  |  |
|  |  •  | Working with Severn Way Energy to research ways of making cuttings into energy  |  |  |
|  | •   | This is one of the bigger challenges – what do we do with it? Farmers come in a bale larger area. Rest went to compost or into hedgerows/waste ground  |  |  |
|  | •  | In housing estates as well as in parks and larger areas  |  |  |
|  | •  | Trialling wildflower turf to suppress grasses. Created meandering pathways and seating areas – mazes etc.  |  |  |
|  | •   | Evidence is that dogs defecate in short grasses, not long grasses  |  |  |
|  | •  | Big shift in opinion as season wore on and grasses start to look long and tired,  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | received more negatively in the latter part of the summer * Some areas not mown until Jan/Feb to protect chrysalis etc

 * Put KPIs and performance indicators into your contracts

 * MONMOUTHSHIRE do external contracts. We can contract them to do ours ... and dispose of it
* Surveys distributed through visual signs and

QR codes * Make it a positive story

 * Mowing regime – meadow areas 2nd or 3rd week of April. Selective mowing. Leave as much seed drop as possible. Go in at end of August to take away bit by bit. Longer grass area gets smaller incrementally so that it’s not so daunting in the autumn cut.

 DI Standing excused @ 19:22    |  |  |
| 9. Update: Tree planting and Activity  | * Trees in Towns initiative meeting attended by Sarah and Melanie
* Shortlist of 8 trees
* Feedback from the initiative once they’ve accessed area
* Funding is for this year

 * There are a couple of dead trees in Bells Field – some through vandalism, some just unhealthy
 |        Clerks to produce map of Bells field for Committee to draw proposal for new plantings  |   |
| 10. Update: Parish issues  | * We’ve got £13,000 for a board walk for an access area to the pond in the nature area.
* The money is there, being sat on. What would it look like? Do we have ideas?

  | Committee to link up with Barnwood Trust/disability groups  Committee to look at feasibility. FS, MG and HL to arrange a date  |   |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | •  | It is in the original plans for Bells Field. Proposals are already drawn.  |  |  |
| 11. Updates: Consolidate Action Plan  | •  | Proposal to look at 3 monthly  | FS to adjust action plan for September meeting  |   |
| 12. Consolidate Volunteer Action  | • • •  | Melanie and Sarah organised a volunteer day Publicised in shops etc Very poorly attended  | MG to link with Alex …. Youth Volunteer group  |   |
| 13. Update: wider FoD  | •  | Our Forest Future at Whitemead attended by Clive, Stuart and Melanie  |   |   |
|  | •  | Lots of talk of pests and diseases that will affect our broadleaves  |  |  |
|  | •  | Presentation given on Biosphere in Devon  |  |  |
|  | •  | Deb Cook spoke abut disadvantaged groups and how to reach them (mobility/mental health etc)  |  |  |
|  | •  | Same applies to youth engagement – we need to get out there and bring them in. We can’t expect them to come to us  |  |  |
| 14. Review Cemetery issues  | • • •  • • • •   | Recommendations need to be made We need some signs on the Green Bins Melanie has sent an early draft Letter signage to mark out plots?  Proposed by Heather. Seconded by Clive. All in agreement  Pathway cut through longer grasses. Ask contractors to cut path – don’t think it was put into mowing regime contract  Display cabinet – can we check on notice board  | Clerk to unearth requirements for plot acquisition  Committee to look at Melanie’s proposal and respond  Melanie to look at Yorkley for costings  Fliss design and cost some signage for feeding the Bees   Agenda Tree Audit revisit  |   |
| 15. Review Council Green Strategy  | • •  | Office is talking about what they can do to enhance the green agenda Recycling bins – paper!  | Get it recycled  Investigate contractors and providers  |   |
| Meeting Closed: 20:20  |  |