



Environment Committee – Minutes of Meeting Held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 17th October 2023 in the Reading Room, High Street, TISBURY, SP3 6LD

MEETING MINUTES

(*responsibility for action)

Questions or Statements

No questions or statements were received.

Those present:

Councillors R Buck (Chairman), V Hillier, J Mason, G Murray - 4.

Also In attendance:

B Cornish (Clerk)

Unitary Councillor Richard Budden

One member of the public

EC 42.23 Apologies

Councillor Buck advised that apologies had been received from Councillors Corp, Phillips and Lacey.

EC 43.23 Declarations of Interest

Any Councillor wishing to declare interests should do so at this point:

- a. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests already declared in the Register of Interests: None.
- b. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests not previously declared in the Register of Interests: None.

EC 44.23 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023.

- **Approved; Chair;** unanimous.

EC 45.23 Matters Arising

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Buck opened the meeting to enable the member of the public to contribute to the discussions:

DEFRA project:

Peter Shallcross advised that the project had received support from the farmers' cluster group. The cluster group had also mentioned the natural flood defence fund.

Round the Bend Tours

Councillors Buck and Mason gave a brief report on their tour of Wessex Water's recycling centre. All the tours had been sold out.

Matt Wheeldon, Wessex Water's Director of Infrastructure Development, who had joined the tour, said that he would be very happy to give a presentation to the parish. It was agreed that this could be held in January at the Victoria Hall.

Playground repairs

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek guidance from Sovereign Playgrounds who inspect the Lower Recreation Ground on whether the site could continue to be a play area in view of the frequency of flooding.

Children's community garden

Following a discussion, Councillor Hillier agreed to contact the Allotment Society to see if anyone with an allotment was interested in helping with the community garden.

Women's Environment Network (WEN)

Councillor Buck gave brief details on WEN which is a charity working to support women and their communities to take action for a healthier planet. She said she would circulate some details to councillors together with their toolkit for community gardens.

Swift boxes

Councillor Buck advised that a resident who had previously been involved in the swift box project had responded to her email. Peter Shallcross advised that during the last initiative 50 boxes had been put up by/through the Natural History Society. He said that residents pay for the box and the local swift group put them up but these have only been put up where there are existing colonies.

NCE Warm and Well Initiative

Councillor Buck advised that the initiative was going ahead with a plan to launch it in time for the Green Drinks at the end of this October. The primary aim was to give advice but there was also the potential for supplying draft excluders and LED lights. It would also make referrals to Warm and Safe Wiltshire. Peter Shallcross would be lending his thermal imaging camera.

EC 46.23 Ramp at the Public Toilets

To consider a report from the Clerk on quotes for the replacement of the ramp at the Public Toilets and to resolve to make recommendations to the Parish Council.

- **Recommendation that the quote for a brick and tarmac ramp be recommended for approval; JM/GM; unanimous; provided confirmation had been received that it was DDA compliant. It was also agreed that all councillors would visit the site.**

EC 47.23 Dark Skies and Light Pollution

To consider ways in which to support and promote the work of Steve Tonkin of the Cranborne Chase AONB on the subject of dark skies and light pollution:

- **Recommendation that a position statement be drafted on Dark Skies and Light Pollution for approval by the Parish Council; VH/JM; unanimous**

It was also agreed that:

- a policy on dark Skies and light pollution be contained in the revised Neighbourhood Plan;
- the draft statement be reviewed by Steve Tonkin at the Cranborne Chase AONB;
- councillors would walk around the village to see what can be improved in terms of lighting;
- the Committee could consider organising a dark sky event in conjunction with the Natural History Society.

EC 48.23 Tree Planting

To consider devising a tree planting strategy and timeline for the Parish Council's support for and involvement in local tree-planting initiatives and to agree on any recommendations to be made to the Parish Council:

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Budden and Peter Shallcross would devise a plan and seek permission from the landowners regarding the planting up of a hedgerow of around 200 metres in length between Weavelands Farm and the reservoir with the purpose of linking up habitats. Once more information had been received, this could be considered at the next meeting.

Councillor Murray advised that St John's Primary School was willing to help but more information would need to be provided to the school.

Tree Audit - The carrying out of a tree audit next year was discussed and Councillor Buck agreed to raise this with the Tree Warden, Andrew Graham.

EC 49.23 Environment Committee Budget for 2024/25

To reconsider and agree on the plans for the Environment Committee for the next financial year and any further items and actions to be costed prior to inclusion in the Parish Council's budget:

One additional item was agreed – a water fountain at the public toilets.

There was a discussion on future talks and events eg the talk by Matt Wheeldon of Wessex Water and also a Christmas speaker

- **Recommendation; VH/JM; unanimous; that the December meeting be given over to a gathering of neighbouring parishes and organisations with a brief presentation from Councillor Buck on the work of the of the Committee over the last year.**

EC 50.23 Date of Next meeting

Councillor Buck confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 6 pm at the Reading Room.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 7.10 pm.