



## Environment Committee – Minutes of Meeting Held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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)

One member of the public

#### EC 51.23 Apologies

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

#### EC 52.23 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: Councillor Hillier declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in the planning application and did not vote.

#### EC 53.23 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

- **Approved; Chair;** unanimous.

#### EC 54.23 Delegated Planning Application \*Clerk

Councillors considered the following planning application which had been delegated to the Committee for decision following additional information being required:

**PL/2023/09063 Bury Lodge, Duck Street, Tisbury** - Proposed relocation of access from the south east elevation to the north west elevation of the building to include a

small balcony. Replace the approved entrance door on the south east elevation with a high-level window:

- **Object; RB/GM;** on the following grounds:

Tisbury Parish Council found the plans and photographs for this application very difficult to interpret. However, it did note that there is no mitigation for the light pollution which will be caused by the 6 full length windows which are shown in the North West Elevation.

Taking account of the fact that the dwelling is within the Cranborne Chase National Landscape and International Dark Sky Reserve, Tisbury Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is contrary to paragraph 185 © of the National Planning Policy Framework and Core Policy 51 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy as the light pollution from the windows will impact the dark skies as well as the flora and fauna in the gardens and land to the north west of Duck Street, especially in the winter months.

### **EC 55.23 Matters Arising**

To receive a report on the progress of matters discussed and actioned at previous meetings:

#### Sewage \*JM

Councillor Mason advised that he had received information from Mr Matt Wheeldon of Wessex Water and needed to look through it. He said he would liaise with Wessex Water again to arrange a date for Mr Wheeldon to give a presentation at a meeting to be held at the Victoria Hall on a date in January 2024.

#### Community Garden \*Clerk

The Clerk was awaiting the accounts being received from the treasurer.

#### Women's Environment Network \*RB

Councillor Buck advised that she would circulate a link to the network.

#### Tree Planting

Councillor Buck advised that she was in discussions with Tean Mitchell with regard to the submission of an application for a grant to the King's Heritage Fund to protect and/or replenish the community orchard and to add some signage to it.

#### Warm at Home project

Councillor Buck advised that she would be participating in a webinar tomorrow with Nadder Community Energy and the residents of Great Bedwyn who would be sharing their experiences of what they've done in terms of a warm at home project. She said that public liability insurance cover would be required if it went ahead in Tisbury.

#### Ramp at the Public Toilets \*All

The Clerk confirmed that an order for the new ramp had been placed. Also confirmed was a site meeting of councillors to be held in the area around the public toilets on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 2 pm.

### **EC 56.23 Dark Skies and Light Pollution** \*Clerk

To consider the draft 'position statement on dark skies and light pollution' and make a recommendation to the Parish Council that it be adopted:

Following a discussion, it was agreed that any comments on the draft would be sent to Councillor Buck in the next week so that a final draft could be circulated with the Parish Council meeting agenda.

- **Approved in principle and recommended for approval by the Parish Council; JM/VH unanimous.**

### **EC 57.23 Community Tree Audit**

To receive a report from Councillor Buck on a recent meeting with the parish's Tree Warden and to consider conducting a community tree audit to identify existing important trees and potential sites for further tree planting:

Councillor Buck gave a detailed report on her meeting with the Parish Tree Warden, Andrew Graham as follows:

- He was keen to complete a tree audit and has highlighted pieces of land where more trees could be planted. He would be assisted in this by a local resident and this would tie in with the tree identification and map the Council had produced for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Residents could indicate which trees were significant and the map could be linked to the Heritage Trail and to a tree walk.
- Parcels of land would be identified where trees could be planted and the Parish Council could have an annual budget for the planting of trees.
- He would submit a report to the Environment Committee on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Mason advised that had received an email from Wiltshire Climate Alliance regarding the elm tree planting project which he would circulate to councillors. He said this would fit well with the work Peter Shallcross was doing and perhaps at the January meeting the Committee could decide whether to submit a separate application. **\*JM**

Councillor Buck confirmed that Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10 am to 12.30 pm was the date for the fruit tree pruning event in the Community Orchard. The Clerk would add it to the social media pages and copies of the poster would be circulated around the village. **\*RB/Clerk**

### **EC 58.23 Councillor Responsibilities**

To agree the areas of interest and responsibility so that Councillors can support tasks agreed by the Committee:

The following areas of responsibility were agreed and allocated:

Sewage and pollution – Councillor Mason

Planting and Trees – Councillors Buck and Hillier

Children's Community Garden – Councillor Phillips

Planning - to dark skies and biodiversity and NP – Councillor Murray

### **EC 59.23 Environment Committee Budget for 2024/25 \*Clerk**

To reconsider any further items for the budget prior to inclusion in the Parish Council's budget:

- **Recommendations as follows: RB/JM; unanimous**  
£1,000 Great Big Green Week; £250 Bulbs;  
£100 for tree nursery growing from half an allotment. Alders and buckthorn alders.

£100 Trees/hedgerow  
£100 Hall Hire for talks/events

**EC 60.23 Planting of Public Area \*VH/Clerk**

To consider the maintenance of the planters in the Square and to agree on how they will be maintained in 2024/25:

Following a discussion, it was agreed that an item on maintenance of the planters and ideas from residents about where more bulbs could be planted would be added to the December Newsletter. Councillor Hillier agreed to provide the wording.

**EC 61.23 Christmas Event \*Clerk/VH/JM/RB**

To consider the format for and invitations to be sent out for the Committee's Christmas engagement event on Tuesday 19th December at 6 pm for local parishes and organisations:

It was agreed that the format of the event would be mulled wine and soft drinks with Councillors Hillier and Mason agreeing to make the mince pies. Councillor Buck was to give a power-point presentation during the event which provided an overview of the role of the Committee and its work over the last year.

It was also agreed that the event would be held at the Hinton Hall subject to availability as it was considered that there would not be enough room in the Reading Room. All local organisations connected to the environment and local parish councils were to be invited. The Clerk advised that she would draft a risk assessment for approval by the Council at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**EC 62.23 Date of Next meeting**

Councillor Buck confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 6 pm at the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.