



Environment Committee – Minutes of Meeting Held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 21st May 2024 in the Reading Room, High Street, TISBURY, SP3 6LD

MEETING MINUTES

(*responsibility for action)

Questions or Statements

Andrew Graham, the Village Tree Warden reported that he had attended a good and helpful training evening recently for tree wardens at Trowbridge run by Wiltshire Council. He said he would like to be involved in the discussion on where trees could be planted around the parish during the course of the next winter but was aware that Council land was quite limited. These could include new and replacement trees. He said there was a dead tree just outside the swimming pool which needs to be removed.

Councillor Davison said that he would like an oak tree in Wardour to have a TPO placed on it. Andrew Graham said that he would seek guidance from the Tree Officer, Shane Verrion. Councillor Davison agreed to send him a photograph and details of its location.

Councillor Buck thanked Andrew Graham for his work and said that she greatly appreciated his relationship with the Parish Council and looked forward to the positive work the Committee will be doing with him.

Those present:

Councillors R Buck (Chairman), F Corp, S Davison, J Mason - 4.

Also In attendance:

B Cornish (Clerk)

Two members of the public including Andrew Graham, Tree Warden.

EC 01.24 Election of Chair

To elect a Chair for 2024-25.

- **Approved; JM/FC** that Councillor Rosie Buck be elected a Chair of the Committee for the 2024-25 civic year.

EC 02.24 Apologies

Councillor Buck confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillor Coyle-Camp.

EC 03.24 Declarations of Interest

- 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 04.24 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

- **Approved; RB/JM.**

EC 05.24 Matters Arising

A report on the progress of matters discussed and actioned at previous meetings:

Bat and Dark Skies Walk

Councillor Buck reported that this had been well attended with residents from Teffont and Hindon as well as Tisbury. Unfortunately, due to the cold evening, there were no bats and the skies were cloudy but Steve Tonkin of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape and Gareth Harris gave excellent and detailed presentations in on dark skies and bats at the Nadder Hall before everyone headed out for the walk. She said the experts would be keen to do another walk later in the year.

Sturminster Newton Town Council

Councillor Buck said that the assistant town clerk had helped with the planting of the Tisbury rain garden and that other officers wished to visit the rain garden in order to share knowledge.

South West Rural Mobility Strategy

Councillor Mason reported that he had contacted Chris Elliott who had told him that he no longer worked for the organisation. He said he would arrange a telephone call with the new contact.

Rain Garden

Councillor Buck advised that it was progressing and was planted up. Peter Shallcross had delivered the woodchip and so far the Council had spent £92 on plants as all of the other plants had been donated. She said Tisbury Gardening Club had been very supportive and had helped with planting and refreshments on the day. They were also helping with watering.

She also advised that the Wessex Water Environment Fund application had been submitted and this would be reviewed by an assessor before being put forward for consideration by the selection panel.

Carbon Literacy Training

The Clerk advised that she had not yet followed up with the former councillor regarding the training.

Willow Screen in Orchard

Councillor Buck reported that the plan to plant some willow cuttings to create a screen between the skatepark and orchard could be done as an autumn event,

potentially with the youth group and children from the primary school. Until then, the willow cuttings will remain in Councillor Davison's field.

EC 06.24 Great Big Green Week

To finalise ideas and plans for the Great Big Green Week and make any recommendations to the Parish Council:

Cllr Mason confirmed the following:

- The Eco Quiz was organised. The Boot is going to hold it on Tuesday 11th June. The questions had already been written. He said it would be good to have a PC team for the event.
- The Car Boot Sale for Reuse and Recycle was booked in for Saturday 8th June, 8.30 am to 1 pm. He said he had 25 people expressing interest. Coffee angels will open on that morning to provide refreshments.

Councillor Mason said that TisTalk would promote the Great Big Green Week and include the visit of the Circus on Wednesday 12th June which was being organised by the primary school. He said he had also put an article into Focus magazine.

EC 07.24 Community Orchard

a. To consider organising a summer pruning workshop with Dave Godden:

Councillor Buck reported that Naomi Styles, the Tree Officer at Wiltshire Council, had sent details of funding from the Tree Council for a summer pruning workshop. Two names of trainers were provided but it also said that the Council could nominate a trainer of its own choice. Consequently, she had contacted Dave Godden to do it and at the same event identify the species and varieties of the trees when they were in leaf. He provided a quote for £50 to do it with the dates suggested being either 21st or 28th July 2024.

- **RB/SD**; unanimous; To make a recommendation to the Parish Council that Dave Godden be commissioned to provide a summer fruit tree pruning workshop at the Community Orchard at the cost of £50 and that this sum be offset by any funding received from the Tree Council.

b. To consider making a grant application to the Coronation Living Heritage Fund for additional trees, signage and seating:

- **RB/SD**; unanimous; To make a recommendation to the Parish Council that to create a break/screen between the skatepark and the Community Orchard a grant application be submitted to fund a group of trees and 2 replacements on M25 rootstock for the existing poor specimen fruit trees in the Orchard. An elm tree was also to be included in the application along with signage.

c. To consider applying for funding from the Cranborne Chase National Landscape for benches in the Community Orchard and Nadder Close near the Rain Garden:

- **RB/JM**; unanimous; To make a recommendation to the Parish Council that an application for funding be made for a bench at both the rain garden and the Orchard.

EC 08.24 Lighting in the International Dark Sky Reserve

To consider how to inform residents who are looking to improve existing non-compliant lighting of the access to free lights and PIRs from the Cranborne Chase National Landscape:

Councillor Buck advised that Steve Tonkin had told the attendees to the Dark Skies walk that the Cranborne Chase National Landscape could provide dark sky compliant lighting for free to residents who wished to replace their non-compliant lighting. She said he had since confirmed that if the Council promoted it, they will supply the right lighting for residents with the appropriate advice.

The following actions were agreed:

- The Council should ensure that the lighting at the public toilets was compliant.
- Councillors would talk to local builders and electricians to enable customers to be compliant compliant.
- Posters will be produced to be put on the website, on the screen at the Post Office, at the Nadder Centre etc.
- Councillor Corp will ask residents about their lighting.

EC 09.24 Children's Community Garden

To appoint a councillor to be the contact for the community garden volunteer leaders:

- **Deferred; Chair;** unanimous.

EC 10.24 Village Planters

To agree annual plans for the planters in the Square and other locations around the parish:

Councillor Buck reported that she had spent £20 on plants from a resident's plant sale in Court Street and other plug plants she had bought in the spring were being grown on. She said the planters would be planted up at the end of May/early June. The current bulbs would be removed and they would be donated to be planted and naturalised around the village. She asked councillors to consider places where they could be planted. Alex Graham was keen to do a workshop on autumn planting later in the year.

EC 11.24 Village Advertising

To consider making a recommendation to the Council regarding the advertising of events in the village and predominantly in The Square:

- **Deferred; Chair;** unanimous. Councillor Buck expressed concern about the distraction of adverts and boards around The Square.

Councillor Mason said that there was a need for a noticeboard and that the wall beside the Benett Arms Pub was the ideal location. It was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting along with A-boards for The Square.

EC 12.24 Date of Next meeting

Councillor Buck confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 6 pm at the Reading Room.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 6.58 pm.