

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2019**

In attendance- Councillors R Whittaker (Chair), Councillor Stewart, Councillor Finch, Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Woods

Also in attendance-

C McRoy, Assistant Clerk

1. **No apologies** were received, all present.
2. **To discuss** potential projects for NLC Epworth in Bloom grant funding application. There was a discussion about various options.
Resolved: to propose to full council that funding is requested for Kings Head Croft and Manor Court car park borders, including monthly maintenance once planted up, and to purchase and maintain new planters for under the village signs.
3. **To discuss** implementation of VE Day weekend 2020 activities. There was a discussion about possible events and the organisation required. The Assistant Clerk reminded members that there must be appropriate permissions, insurances, licences, risk assessments, health and hygiene certificates, and emergency services notifications in place for the events to go ahead. It was agreed that all councillors attending events would be required to have a role.
Resolved: the following events to be held:
Friday 8th May- an evening music event at the Imperial Hall
Saturday 9th May- an afternoon tea event at St Andrew's Church
Saturday 9th May- the beacon to be lit at 9.00pm
Further resolved: the Clerk to book singers for the Friday and Saturday events at a cost of £250 and £175 respectively, and catering at a cost of £5.00 per head.
4. **To discuss** the possibility of Town Council using the handyman from a neighbouring parish on a casual basis. The Assistant Clerk reminded members that if they wished to go forward with this, they would need a list of potential tasks for a handyman to carry out. There was a discussion regarding bench cleaning, flower bed maintenance and tidying the area around the kissing gate at the top of QEII field.
Resolved: Clerk to contact Belton Parish Council to determine whether their staff have any additional capacity.
5. **To discuss** issues linked to the water bowser and requirements for watering post. There was a discussion about the condition of the water bowser, and it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would take photographs of it for the next meeting. There was also a discussion regarding the seasonal watering vacancy and wider advertising.
6. **To receive** results of recent NLC play equipment inspection. The Assistant Clerk informed members that the bi-annual play equipment inspection had recently been completed. All was in good condition with just a couple of minor points reported

regarding cosmetic missing plastic nut caps and moss beginning to grow on the safety surface.

Resolved: proposal to full Council to employ a contractor to jet wash the safety surfacing.

7. **To discuss** potential sites for the additional picnic bench. It was suggested that the Committee visit the site to come up with potential locations. The Assistant Clerk reminded members of the need to consider grass cutting around the bench.

Resolved: The only 2 available councillors were to visit the site the next day and report back to the next meeting.

8. **To discuss** quotes for hanging baskets 2020. There was a discussion regarding filling of hanging baskets.

Resolved: to propose to full Council that the same contractor and specification be used as last year (amended to account for larger baskets).

9. **To discuss** actions relating to climate and nature emergency. There were various suggestions made of potential council actions including low energy lighting in Council buildings, rainwater harvesting for Cemetery watering, using peat-free compost in hanging baskets and solar panels for Cemetery Lodge.

Resolved: to propose to Council that peat-free compost be used in its hanging baskets from 2020 onwards.

10. **To discuss** the schedule for the Spring Edition of the Epworth Echo and receive suggestions for items to be included. The Assistant Clerk explained that the printed Echo needs to be delivered to the Arrow team by the first Thursday of the month to be distributed with that month's Arrow. Suggestions for inclusion were VE Day events, litter picking events, Have a Field Day event, Music Day, future Council meeting dates and grant funding.

Resolved: proposal to Council that the next edition of the Epworth Echo be in April 2020

11. **To nominate** items for Facebook.

Resolved: To advertise the watering vacancy again, and mention VE Day events in general terms.

12. **To discuss** the date of the next meeting.

Resolved: Tuesday 11th February at 6.30pm

To record the closure of the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8.17pm

Signed..... Date.....