



Thurcroft Parish Council

Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour
Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD

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Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held Thursday 12th September 2024

Present Councillors: D. Oxley (Chair), H. Bell, V. Burford, T. Murphy and C. Walker (5 councillors present)

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Winsborough.

Absent: C. Alsop

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting started at 6.30pm

RE/2024/16 To receive and approve reasons for absence

The Clerk received apologies and reasons for absence from A. Winsborough and the council accepted the reasons for absence.

Resolved:- That the reasons for absence for A. Winsborough be approved.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/17 To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest¹ from members or officers

No declarations of personal or pecuniary interest were received.

RE/2024/18 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

No written requests for dispensation had been received.

RE/2024/19 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were no requests of dispensation to grant.

RE/2024/20 To receive and approve the minutes of the meetings of the Environment Committee held on Wednesday 19th June 2024

Resolved:- The Committee raised no matters on the minutes, and approved them as an accurate record of the previous committee meeting. The Chairman signed each page of the minutes to be held on file.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. 4 councillors voted in favour, 1 councillor abstained.

RE/2024/21 To identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed. Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2))



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The Clerk advised that Item 21 and 22 were to be held in confidential session due to the nature of the business to be discussed.

Resolved:- The Committee approved both items to be held in confidential session.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/22 Public Participation Session

There were no public present at the meeting.

RE/2024/23 To note the budget and amount spent on Recreation and Environment projects for the year

The Committee noted the current budgets relating to Open Spaces and Recreation within the parish.

RE/2024/24 To discuss and consider the trees/shrubs to be cut back on parish land

The Committee discussed areas around the parish that needed to be maintained and cut back. It was agreed that Cllr Oxley would walk with an Officer for the Council to capture all areas that need to be cut back and that this would be compiled and communicated with the grounds maintenance contractors

Resolved:- That delegated authority be given for the Officer and Cllr D Oxley to compile a list of bushes and shrubs to be cut back within the parish and to arrange a meeting with the grounds maintenance contractor.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/25 To discuss and consider the lamp post hanging baskets for the next financial year

The Committee discussed the positive impact that the Hanging Baskets had this year especially extending to both sides of the lamp posts. It was agreed that extension to the service should be made to provide some flowers on the front of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall and outside Thurcroft Cemetery.

The Committee agreed to look for options of a longer contract length, which may provide a better value for money.

Resolved:- That the Clerk will provide quotes to the next council meeting, including an extension to the service including Thurcroft Cemetery and Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall and to provide options for a longer length of contract.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/26 To discuss the current provision of equipment for volunteers for the parish council



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The Committee wished to buy further outdoor equipment to support the work completed around the parish by volunteers. The Clerk asked for a list of equipment which the Committee provided.

Resolved:- That extra outdoor equipment will be purchased using the Lengthsman Equipment cost code

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/27 To discuss and consider quotes for the extension to bulb planting

The Clerk presented a quote for bulb planting in the parish of £4850.00 exc VAT to be planted on Laughton Road/School Road, in between the new flower beds on Green Arbour Road and within the second inlet after the pit tub entrance to the village.

Resolved:- That the Committee make a recommendation to the Council to approve the bulb planting to the value of £4850 exc. VAT in the location of Laughton Rd/School Rd, along Green Arbour Road in between the flower beds, the second grass inlet after the 'Pit Tub' location.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/28 To note an update on the building up of the flower beds on Green Arbour Road and consider any further action

The Clerk shared that the contractor has completed most of the building up of the flower beds in Brampton, Laughton Common and there are a couple of beds to finish on Green Arbour Road. The contractor is due to finish off the building up of the flower beds in the next month. The Committee noted the update.

RE/2024/29 To discuss and consider winter planting, and consider formation of the Working Party to discuss next springs flowerbed designs

The Clerk shared that a Working Party was going to meet to discuss the choice of flowers for the beds into winter and next spring. The Committee agreed to set up a Working Party meeting to discuss a proposal that can be communicated with the horticulture contractor.

Resolved:- That the Working Party will meet within the next two weeks to discuss flower options for the flower beds throughout the parish for winter and next spring.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/30 To note an update on the noticeboards and consider any further action

The Clerk shared an update that the order for the noticeboards was placed on 26th July 2024, the lead time for these to be made is 8 weeks. The noticeboards should be



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arranged to be delivered next week. The noticeboards are planned to be placed on Thurcroft Recreation Ground and Hangsman Lane, Recreation Ground.

RE/2024/31 To note consultation feedback received regarding the playground in Thurcroft

The Committee deferred this item whilst consultation feedback was collated.

RE/2024/32 To note an update on the 'Pit Tub' location and to consider any further action

The Clerk shared an update that Community Payback have completed the cut back and edged up to where the grass had overgrown the path. The jet blasting was due to be completed in August, but this has been delayed, the contractor is scheduling to complete within the next two weeks.

The Committee agreed that the next phase is to investigate the memorial stone that is to be placed in this area. The Committee agreed to look at setting up a Working Party to discuss a proposal and for this to be presented back to the Committee for decision.

Resolved:- That a Working Party be formed to discuss the memorial stone and form a proposal for the Committee to consider.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/33 To receive the latest Playground Inspection report and consider any further action

The Clerk advised that there was a patch of tarmac missing earlier this summer at Hangsman Lane, Recreation Ground. This has been fixed. The Clerk shared the other issues within the park and asked for delegated authority to spend within budget to repair the playground.

Hangsman Lane – Low Risk

- Boulders – Algae needs to be cleaned, they need to be anchored as loose (Resident complaint)
- Hut – Needs gap filling in to prevent tripping hazard, and graffiti removal.
- Paintwork needs repainting

Gordon Bennett – Low Risk

- Repaint on Skatepark – Arson – This has been submitted to Community Payback
- Hut – Graffiti – Repaint submitted to Community Payback
- Safety surface compacted

Brampton – Moderate Risk



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- Rotor play item – Moderate finding – rusting needs to be treated
- Compacted safety surfaces

Resolved:- That the Clerk has delegated authority to repair the issues within Playground
Repairs cost code

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/34 **To discuss the acceptance of trees from a local business and consider any further action**

The Committee agreed to defer the item to be discussed at a later meeting.

RE/2024/35 **To discuss and consider completing a full tree survey for any trees on parish land**

The Committee agreed to Defer the item for the full survey. The Committee raised concerns with the trees located in the school grounds. The Committee agreed that a letter should be written to the school to request for the trees to be cut back.

Resolved:- That a letter be written to the school to ask if the trees in Thurcroft Junior Academy are due to be cut back and to highlight the safety concerns from leaves in the Autumn

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/36 **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – To discuss the Horticulture contract and consider any further action**

The Committee raised concerns with the service that is being received from the contractor. The Committee have seen poor service of weeding in flower beds, entry signs have still not been planted, no extra flowers as discussed and that the quote for soil had still not been received as agreed.

Resolved:- That the Clerk speak with the contractor to raise the concerns of the Committee and that this be fed back to the Council at the next available meeting

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

RE/2024/37 **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – To discuss and propose a working schedule for an employee**

The Committee discussed the current working schedule and made recommendations that will be discussed in the Finance & General Committee which can deal with staffing matters.

Resolved:- That a recommendation to update the working schedule be referred to Finance & General Committee

Voting:- 5 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.



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RE/2024/38 To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting

No matters were raised for inclusion at the next meeting.

RE/2024/39 To confirm the date and time of the next Recreation and Environment Committee to be held on Thursday 16th January 2025 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

The Committee noted the time and date of the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.