



Thurcroft Parish Council

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

e: clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held Wednesday 19th June 2024

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

Apologies were received from Councillors: C. Alsop and H. Bell

Absent: None

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting started at 6.30pm

RE/2024/01 To receive and approve reasons for absence

The Clerk received apologies and reasons for absence from C. Alsop and H. Bell prior to the meeting for the committee's consideration.

Resolved:- That the reasons for absence for C. Alsop and H. Bell be approved.

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

RE/2024/02 To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interestⁱ from members or officers

There were no declarations of personal or pecuniary interest received.

RE/2024/03 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

The Clerk has received no written requests for dispensation.

RE/2024/04 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There are no written requests of dispensation to grant.

RE/2024/05 To receive and approve the minutes of the meetings of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 16th January 2024

There was one spelling error raised on the minutes. This has been highlighted and the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record for the meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024.

Resolved:- That the minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record, and that the chairman signs a copy of each page of the minutes to be held on file.

Voting:- 5 councillors present. 3 councillors voted in favour. 2 councillors abstained.



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RE/2024/06 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))

There are no items identified to be considered with the exclusion of press and public.

RE/2024/07 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present at the meeting.

RE/2024/08 To receive the latest Playground Inspection report and consider any further action

The committee received the latest playground inspection reports and were advised of two moderate findings;

- Thurcroft Recreation Ground; Replacement of swings and chains
- Brampton Playground; Rust corrosion on the turning wheel

The Clerk advised of multiple advisories for the safety matting in Brampton Playground that has become compacted and needs to be rectified.

The committee agreed for the Clerk to address the issues identified within the Playground maintenance budget.

Resolved:- That the Clerk be delegated the authority to address the moderate issues within the Playground inspection report and to address safety matting concerns raised within Brampton playground.

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

RE/2024/09 To discuss the acceptance of trees from a local business and consider any further action

The committee received an offer of a tree to be planted on parish land by a local business. The tree offered is an oak or other suitable varieties for the area. The committee agreed that a tree survey should be undertaken across the parish first to understand the tree stock we currently have before planting any other trees at this stage.

The Committee agreed that meeting with the local business man to understand what he wishes to plant would be beneficial.



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Resolved:- That the item is deferred until a tree survey is undertaken and the outcome is fed back to the committee and that a meeting be set up with the business man for the committee to understand the tree planting.

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

RE/2024/10 To discuss and consider completing a full tree survey for any trees on parish land

The Clerk advised that we currently have no recorded information on the trees held within the parish, and the maintenance that has been undertaken. The Clerk advised that quotes be gathered for a tree survey to be completed and that these be approved by the council.

Resolved:- That the Clerk is delegated to obtain quotes for a tree survey and that these quotes be presented to the council in line with Financial Regulations.

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

RE/2024/11 To discuss and consider any action on the following projects;

a) Flower Bulbs

The committee discussed the increase of spring bulbs around the parish to make further impact like they did earlier this year. The Clerk advised that the committee that the Environment project budget is £30,000 which includes large items such as noticeboards. The committee agreed that £5000 maximum including the bulbs and installation be applied to the budget for spring bulbs.

The committee agreed to the locations;

- Laughton Road/School Road
- Laughton Common
- Green Arbour Road

The committee agreed that Brampton en-le Morthen already have enough bulbs.

Resolved:- That the Clerk obtain quotes for spring bulbs at the locations identified and present full quotes for products and installation to the council before September.

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

b) Pit tub

The Clerk advised that Community Payback have been instructed by Rotherham Council to cut back the tree shrubbery that is overtaking the bench.



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The Committee agreed for the pit tub to be painted by a local artist to show the history of mining in Thurcroft. The Committee agreed to progress no further until the trees have been cut back by Community Payback.

c) Thurcroft Memorial Garden

The Committee discussed that they would like to look at the trees and shrubs within the garden. The Clerk advised that the tree survey that is to be undertaken will show us what work needs to be done, including the trees within this memorial garden. The shrubs are now included within the grounds maintenance contract and it is hoped that the shrubbery works will be undertaken outside of nesting season.

The Clerk advised any further works in the garden will need to be included within the budget for next year, and consultation with the public undertaken to devise up costed plans and designs.

The Committee agreed that Thurcroft Memorial Garden consultation and project work will begin early next year.

Resolved:- That the project be deferred until January next year, but that the committee feed this into the budgeting process for next financial year.

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

d) Thurcroft Recreation Playground

The committee discussed the resident feedback regarding Thurcroft playground and the inadequacies for younger children. It was agreed that lessons had been learnt that consultation was undertaken with the children, but parents are as important when consulting.

The committee agreed to undertake consultation throughout the summer months to gain feedback on what residents would like to see. Once initial consultation has been undertaken to gain ideas, it should be reported back to the committee to enable plans to

Resolved:- That the Clerk arrange dates and communication for consultation to be undertaken throughout the summer holidays (late July-August) and that this is reported back to the next committee meeting.

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

e) Noticeboards



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The Clerk advised that new guidance had been received that exempts the parish council from needing planning permission to erect noticeboards. There has been a delay in gaining consent from two locations which have delayed the project. The committee discussed and agreed that given the delays in the project, the ones that we do have permission for should go ahead to ensure that there we can deliver some noticeboards for the council.

The committee agreed to progress with;

- Thurcroft Recreation Ground (Parish Council)
- Hangsman Lane (Parish Council)
- Land outside the Spar (RMBC Highways)

Resolved:- That a recommendation be made to the council with the full costing of the project including installation of the three noticeboards.

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

RE/2024/12 To receive a councillor request for weeding on School Road and around the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

The committee discussed completing weeding in areas of the parish. The Clerk advised that the Volunteer policy is currently in production and will be presented at the next council meeting. Once this is in place this will allow councillors the ability to undertake more basic works around the parish within the parameters of the policy.

The committee agreed that if the Volunteer policy is accepted that dates be circulated with members of the council.

Resolved:- That the Committee will wait for the Volunteers policy to be approved by the council and that the Clerk will circulate forward dates for volunteer works with all members of the council to have the opportunity to be involved.

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

RE/2024/13 To receive an update to the arrangements made in relation to the Allotments and consider any further action

The Clerk shared a draft contract between the council and the Thurcroft Cottage Gardens Allotment Association. The committee agreed that the peppercorn rent should be in place for ten years, collecting a £0.01 on the 1st April 2024 each year.

The Committee agreed with the drafted contract and that this be recommended the council for approval in line with the council policies.

Resolved:- That the committee recommend the approval of the contract between Thurcroft Cottage Gardens Allotments Association and the council.

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



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RE/2024/14 To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting

- Maintenance of the Mineral Line

RE/2024/15 To confirm the date and time of the next Recreation and Environment Committee to be held on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

That the next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.