



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Held on **Tuesday 24 November 2015** at **7.45pm** in the Parish Office

Present: Councillors Dr Haffegée (Chair), Ms Healy, Fitzwilliams and Towle

### **E029. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Thorin.

### **E030. Declarations of interest**

Councillors Dr Haffegée and Towle both declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest as committee members of Warfield Environment Group. Councillor Haffegée declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest as being registered on Warfield Parish Council's allotment waiting list. There were no dispensations requested.

### **E031. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2015**

These were approved by the Environment Committee, having been proposed by Councillor Dr Haffegée and seconded by Councillor Fitzwilliams.

### **E032. Matters arising**

There were none.

### **E033. Finance**

The Committee's financial report to date for 2015/16 was noted. It was further noted that £500 remains available for Climate Change Action Plan spend.

### **E034. Correspondence for information**

There was none.

### **E035. Projects**

The following environmental projects were considered for possible inclusion in the Parish Council's draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) infrastructure delivery list:

1. Provision of allotments:
  - Allotment site in new development area 2 – BFC s106 infrastructure project, therefore not to be included in Parish Council's CIL list.
  - Allotment site(s) in new development area(s) 1 and 3 – it was agreed that these be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.
  
2. Upgrade to Frost Folly Country Car Park – Warfield Parish Council's proposals are currently being considered by Harrow Estates, to be included in a planning application for off-site Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) for the new development. The proposals also remain with Bracknell Forest Council as a potential s106 project should the Harrow Estates planning application not come to fruition. It was agreed that maintenance of this site be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.
  
3. Maintenance and enhancement of green spaces within existing Warfield development – the following sites were identified for recording:
  - Land south of Whitegrove (Maize Lane) roundabout, to east and west of Goughs Lane
  - Westmorland Park
  - Hayley Green Wood
  - Larks Hill – it was agreed that use of this site will be monitored whilst Cabbage Hill's use as SANG develops, before any enhancements are proposed (though it was agreed that the orchard should be expanded and better maintained, a future community project)
  - Cabbage Hill (a future project)
  - Goddard Way (a future project, outdoor gym?)
  - Whitegrove Copse – it was agreed that use of this site should be encouraged, with the installation of a nature trail being a potential future project
  - Piggy Wood
  - Beggars Roost Nature Reserve – it was agreed that Warfield Parish Council must ensure this site remains, and will consider its future enhancement
  - Other sites still to be recorded

The following were identified as potential enhancements/projects which could be considered for each/any of the sites recorded:

- Keep some parts green (little human intervention)
  - Development of nature trails
  - Inclusion in walks
  - 'Edible Warfield' – planting of edible plants/trees in suitable locations for picking by residents
  - Refreshing of over-mature vegetation
  - Planting of orchards
  - Other enhancements/projects still to be identified
4. Encourage resident participation in environmental events and activities, such as:
    - Wildlife walks/surveys – it was noted that some developers are keen to generate community interest in these types of activities

- Land clearance/maintenance such as Warfield Environment Group's clearance of rhododendron in Hayley Green Wood
  - Growing – resident participation in events and projects such as the Vegetable Take & Grow, allotments, 'Edible Warfield' on small, unused strips of land
  - Community involvement/promoting events – it was agreed that these should be included in the Committee's Terms of Reference
  - Environmental weekend – including walking and cycling (a future)
5. Upgrade public rights of way:
- Gibbins Lane footpath-to-bridleway scheme – improve cycle and pedestrian access to north of parish; including improvements to two bridges and widening of footpath alongside Fairacres. It was agreed that this project be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.
  - Cabbage Hill SANG to Hazelwood Lane link – improve access to north of parish; including formal crossing point on Forest Road. It was agreed that this project be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.
  - Newell Green/West End to north of parish bridleway scheme – new bridleway through Scotlands Farm/Osborne Lane to give safe cycle and pedestrian access to Wellers Lane (including access to potential off-site SANG), Church Lane and the northern byways. It was agreed that this project be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.

The following environmental projects were also considered:

- Improvement of cycle path network, including joining up of existing cycle paths. It was agreed that this project be added to the Parish Council's CIL list.
- Provision of 'Boris bikes' – a project of this nature was not considered appropriate for Warfield.
- Provision of ranger services – this may be considered in the future.
- Making more local produce available – this would be achieved via a community shop, which Warfield Parish Council could be supportive of but would not own/run.

#### E036. Allotments

- a. New allotment site in Warfield new development area 2, adjacent to Quelm Park:

It was RESOLVED that this allotment site be named the Quelm Allotments.

Warfield Parish Council's meeting with Paul Neary, our National Allotment Society (NAS) mentor, on Tuesday 17 November was noted (including site visit with Bracknell Forest Council representatives). The following were noted:

- Paul strongly recommends the transfer of the land from Bracknell Forest Council to Warfield Parish Council. Warfield Parish Council will discuss the land transfer and land clearance with Hilary Coplestone, Bracknell Forest Council's Major Sites Implementation Manager, at a meeting before the next Planning Meeting on Monday 30 November.

- Paul recommends contacting developers to ask for assistance with the project. The Deputy Clerk will contact Berkeley Homes to ask if they would be willing to make heavy plant available to clear the land and to reduce the size of the attenuation pond, and to supply top soil and a portacabin or container for the site.
- Paul suggested identifying community volunteers to assist with the project. It was agreed that Warfield Parish Council will hold an open meeting in Spring 2016, with invitations being sent to all those on the existing allotment list and an invitation also being included in the next issue of the Wren. The Deputy Clerk will bring the allotment list to the next meeting.
- The Deputy Clerk is documenting meeting.

In addition it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk will request quotations for fencing for the site (Councillor Fitzwilliams will advise of a suitable fencing contractor). It was also agreed that Councillors Fitzwilliams and Ms Thorin will attend an allotments training course; the Deputy Clerk will investigate suitable courses.

- b. Future allotment sites in Warfield new development areas 1 and 3 – it was noted that there is likely to be only one allotment site in area 1, attached to Priory Field.

#### E037. **Events**

- a. Community Litter Picks for the Clean for The Queen campaign – timings for the two litter picks were agreed; Saturday 5 March, 10.00 – 12.00, and Sunday 6 March 2016, 14.00 – 16.00. Warfield Environment Group will lead one, and Warfield Parish Council the other with Councillor Dr Haffegge seeking a volunteer to lead the Parish Council litter pick at Full Council. Advertising has already started for these events.
- b. Vegetable Take & Grow (Saturday 23 April 2016) – the Deputy Clerk confirmed that Whitegrove Community Centre is booked for this event. Advertising for volunteers has already started.
- c. Family Cycle Ride – the date for this event was confirmed as Sunday 26 June 2016.
- d. Warfield Produce Show – there was nothing to report.
- e. Warfield Pumpkin Show – there was nothing to report.
- f. Bracknell Forest Walks, Runs and Cycles – Councillor Fitzwilliams and Ms Thorin's offers to hold a walk and run respectively have been noted with thanks by Lynda Lunn who is organising the event.

#### **E038. Current and future projects**

- a. Assets of Community Value (ACV) for Frost Folly and Larks Hill – there was no progress to report.
- b. Frost Folly Country Car Park – this item will be removed from future agendas.
- c. Bracknell Forest Council Green Spaces – this item will be removed from future agendas.
- d. Trees – there was no progress to report on the Parish Council’s request for a new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to cover the hedgerows/trees on Avery Lane.
- e. Climate Change Action Plan – this still needs to be updated (a future project).  
The following were noted:
  - The £500 remaining for Climate Change Action Plan spend in 2015/16 had been previously noted. It was agreed that this amount should be carried over to 2016/17 if no suitable project is identified for the current financial year.
  - Recycling – as Terracycle are no longer accepting mobile phones for recycling, the Deputy Clerk is investigating alternative organisations to use (potentially with ink cartridges too). The Deputy Clerk is also investigating whether it is necessary to continue to offer a facility for recycling low-energy light bulbs. The Deputy Clerk will provide a list of potential waste streams which could be recycled at the Parish Office for consideration at the next meeting, and also investigate the potential for recycling Tetrapaks.
- f. Walking – Councillor Fitzwilliams will re-draft all the Parish Council’s walks as they are in need of modernisation (consideration will be given to improved maps, QR codes, apps etc).
- g. Running – as Councillor Ms Thorin was not in attendance, this item is held over to the next meeting.
- h. Cycling – as Councillor Ms Thorin was not in attendance, this item is held over to the next meeting.
- i. Other member suggestions – there were none.

#### **E039. Warfield’s Annual Gardening Competition**

Councillors Dr Haffeggee, Ms Healy and Ms Thorin’s attendance at the Bracknell Your Gardens 2015 Gala Evening was noted. Councillor Ms Healy will put together a proposal for the future format of Warfield’s Annual Gardening Competition.

#### **E040. Members’ reports**

There were none.

**E041. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 22 December 2015 at 7.45pm.

**E042. Closure of the meeting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.