



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held on **Tuesday 29 September 2015** at **7.45pm** in the Parish Office

Present: Councillors Dr Haffegge (Chair), Dr Barnard, Ms Healy, Fitzwilliams, Ms Thorin, and Towle

E001. Apologies for absence

Councillor Faerber.

E002. Declarations of interest

Councillors Dr Haffegge and Towle both declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest as committee members of Warfield Environment Group. It was noted that Cllr Dr Barnard had previously declared interests as a Bracknell Forest Council Councillor and Bracknell Town Council Councillor. There were no dispensations requested.

E003. Finance

The Committee's financial report to date for 2015/16 was noted, and the Deputy Clerk was asked to remove the term 'profit' from future reports. It was further noted that the Committee will need to consider its budget for 2016/17 at the next meeting of the Committee on 27 October 2015.

E004. Communications for information

- a. Correspondence regarding Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Week events – noted.
- b. Correspondence from Matt Lunn, Bracknell Forest Council, regarding allotments – this will be considered in item E005 of this agenda.

E005. Allotments

- a. New allotment site in Warfield new development area 2, adjacent to Quelm Park – the timescales for the site were noted as September 2016.

It was RESOLVED that Warfield Parish Council joins The National Allotment Society as soon as possible. Further, the Deputy Clerk was asked to request all information relating to the development of new allotment sites, and to identify a representative of their organisation who may be able to assist/meet with

Members to discuss the development of the new site especially with respect to submission of a planning application.

The Deputy Clerk will request a location plan for the site from Bracknell Forest Council; this will confirm the site boundaries.

Councillor Dr Haffegge will circulate proposed meeting dates for an initial allotments meeting; this to be attended by Councillors Dr Barnard, Dr Haffegge and Ms Thorin.

Councillor Dr Barnard suggested that Warfield Parish Council may wish to own the allotment site. The Deputy Clerk will begin investigations.

- b. Future allotment sites in Warfield new development areas 1 and 3:

It was RESOLVED that Warfield Parish Council expresses to Bracknell Forest Council its interest in the allotments sites currently proposed for area 1.

It was RESOLVED that Warfield Parish Council requests that Bracknell Forest Council identifies potential allotment sites in area 3.

E006. Events

- a. Community Litter Pick – it was agreed that Warfield Parish Council will join Warfield Environment Group in taking part in Keep Britain Tidy's Clean for The Queen campaign in celebration of The Queen's 90th birthday. The campaign includes a special clean-up weekend for Friday 4 – Sunday 6 March 2016. Local groups and organisations will be invited to attend, and Tesco North Bracknell will be asked to sponsor the Warfield events. The Deputy Clerk will circulate information on the campaign to Committee Members.
- b. Vegetable Take & Grow – a date of Saturday 23 April 2016 was agreed. It was further agreed that Warfield Parish Council would like more residents to be involved in the event, growing plants and helping on the day; this will need to be advertised in the Wren, on flyers etc. An allotment stand will be included in the event.

Councillor Fitzwilliams proposed a Warfield Parish Council Environment Weekend, or even a Week, for consideration in the future.

Councillor Dr Barnard left the meeting at 9pm.

- c. Warfield Produce Show – it was agreed that Warfield Parish Council will offer increased support for this local event, and contact the Show's Committee earlier regarding attendance at the Vegetable Take & Grow. It was suggested that Warfield Parish Council may sponsor a class at the Show.

- d. Warfield Pumpkin Show – it was agreed that Warfield Parish Council will also offer increased support for this local event, and again contact the organiser earlier regarding attendance at the Vegetable Take & Grow.

E007. **Current and future projects**

- a. Assets of Community Value – it was RESOLVED that Frost Folly, Larks Hill (centred on the orchard) and Cabbage Hill be nominated as environmental Assets of Community Value. The Deputy Clerk will progress Frost Folly and Larks Hill, with Cabbage Hill being considered a future nomination.
- b. Bracknell Forest Council Green Spaces – Councillor Ms Healy's letter to Mark Devon, Bracknell Forest Council's Chief Officer for Leisure and Culture, regarding issues with works at Goddard Way and Warfield Chase was noted. Concern was also expressed regarding other green spaces in Warfield, such as Harvest Hill and The Chestnuts. Succession planning on trees, and improving the quality of existing green spaces and future green spaces were all considered to be potential future projects for the Environment Committee.
- c. Climate Change Action Plan – it was agreed that this needs to be updated. The Deputy Clerk will circulate the current Plan to all Committee Members for consideration at the next meeting on 27 October 2015.
- d. Cycling – it was agreed that Warfield Parish Council should publish cycle routes as well as walks.

It was noted that Warfield Parish Council must ensure that the east-west greenway running through areas 1 – 3 of the new development continues into areas 1 and 3 in the same size and quality as is proposed for area 2.

Family Cycle Ride – it was agreed that a date must be set for this event sooner than was in 2015. Councillor Ms Healy will contact the organising group to request the 2016 event be scheduled for Sunday 26 June, with the same format as for previous years. It was noted that the Parish Council must recruit more marshals from Warfield.

- e. Frost Folly Country Car Park – it was noted that Warfield Parish Council had some time ago proposed an S106 project for this site. The Deputy Clerk will confirm the detail of the project, its current status and which S106 contribution will be used to fund the project.

It was noted that the Parish Clerk is currently looking for a new contractor to maintain Frost Folly, together with the grounds of the Brownlow Hall and Whitegrove Community Centre.

- f. Lily Hill Park – it was noted that Warfield Parish Council contributes towards the maintenance of this site; this is linked to lottery funding of the site. It was agreed that the Parish Council's support for this site should be better-publicised.

- g. Public rights of way – Warfield Parish Council contributes to Bracknell Forest Council the cost of maintaining the public rights of way in the Parish of Warfield, and this will continue.
- h. Recycling – the Parish Council’s Climate Change Action Plan is to be revised, and recycling will be considered as part of this. It was noted that Warfield Parish Council’s first donation of £33 will be made to the Woodland Trust at the end of October 2015; the result of coffee packaging and mobile phone recycling initiatives in the Parish Office.
- i. Trees – note that Warfield Parish Council’s Planning & Transport Committee will continue to respond to tree applications, but tree projects will be undertaken by the Environment Committee.

Avery Lane – the Deputy Clerk will finalise a request for a new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to cover the hedgerows/trees on both sides of this lane.

Watersplash Lane – Councillor Fitzwilliams suggested that a blanket TPO is also required to prevent the veteran trees within the hedgerows along this lane from being felled, and also for the triangle of land between the two lanes; these suggestions were noted.

Quelm Lane – the Deputy Clerk will request details from Bracknell Forest Council of the works undertaken to trees protected by TPO 89 since 2012.

Cedar of Lebanon on Shakespeare Way – this tree was recently felled by Bracknell Forest Council due to its dangerous condition. The Deputy Clerk will find out when a replacement tree will be planted, and what species that replacement tree will be.

- j. Walks – the Deputy Clerk will contact Lynda Lunn, the Bracknell Forest Society, to agree in principle with her suggestions for a walks weekend across the Borough, though with a preference for a weekend in September rather than October (due to the likelihood of better weather). It was noted that the Parish Council’s walks leaflets may need updating.
- k. Other member suggestions – these will be considered at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

E008. Warfield’s Annual Gardening Competition

It was noted that Warfield Parish Council may need to consider a new format for 2016.

E009. Members' reports

Councillor Ms Thorin suggested that the Committee considers a bee project, possibly linked to the development of the new allotment site(s).

Councillor Towle suggested that local primary schools should be advised of the Cedar of Lebanon stump so that pupils can visit it to count rings/age the tree. He would welcome the stump remaining if possible, rather than being ground. The Deputy Clerk will contact Nikita Parks, former Parish Councillor, with a view to obtaining an aerial photograph of the stump.

E010. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 27 October 2015 at 7.45pm.

E011. Closure of the meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.