



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held on **Tuesday 26 April 2016** at **7.45pm** in the Parish Office

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

E083. Apologies for absence

Cllr Fitzwilliams.

E084. Declarations of interest

It was noted that Cllr Dr Barnard had previously declared interests as a Bracknell Forest Council Cllr and a Bracknell Town Council Cllr.

E085. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2016

These were approved by the Environment Committee, having been proposed by Cllr Towle and seconded by Cllr Ms Thorin.

E086. Matters arising

- a. Correspondence regarding cut-off date for recording historical rights of way on the Definitive Map – the Deputy Clerk has responded to Graham Pockett, Bracknell Forest Council's Parks & Countryside Manager, on this matter.
- b. Litter in Warfield – it was agreed that litter picking equipment could be made available to individuals from the Parish Office. The Deputy Clerk will provide litter picking guidance/risk assessment plus a disclaimer, and confirm all are acceptable to the Parish Council's insurance company. The Deputy Clerk will also investigate where litter should be disposed of.

It was further agreed that any larger groups wishing to pick litter should be directed to the Bracknell Forest Council's Take Pride volunteering initiative.

E087. Finance

The Committee's financial report to date for 2015/16 was noted.

E088. Correspondence for information

There was none.

E089. Allotments

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

Following discussion it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk will circulate to Cllrs, for approval, a draft letter to Bracknell Forest Council raising Warfield Parish Council's concerns regarding the Quelm allotment site, these being:

- Northern boundary (Watersplash Lane) – indicate that Warfield Parish Council is not willing to fund infrastructure, in this case road improvements necessary to access the allotment site or road-widening required for the new development,
- Southern boundary (Harvest Ride) – confirm that Warfield Parish Council does not wish to own the land on which the gas governor is sited, nor will it allow access to the gas governor from the allotment site,
- Eastern Boundary (new link road) – request a landscaping scheme which will be beneficial to, and complement, the new allotment site, such as fruit trees and shrubs which will attract pollinators, with Warfield Parish Council approving the proposals,
- Attenuation pond – re-request proposals for drainage solution so that Warfield Parish Council can approve them before they are implemented, and re-iterate that Warfield Parish Council is not willing to fund provision of the car park given the likely additional cost of this caused by revised drainage solution, and
- Land transfer – confirm that Warfield Parish Council is happy to accept a freehold transfer of the land, with no limiting covenants. (The Deputy Clerk will also consult the National Allotment Society to ensure that the acquisition of the land for a nominal sum will not be construed as the land being gifted and so invalidate its statutory status.)

Site survey – the Deputy Clerk will request site survey information from Berkeley Homes in order to assist with the identification of utilities and services beneath and near to the site.

Funding – submission of an application for a Tesco Bags of Help community grant to assist in funding the development of the allotment site is not appropriate at this time. It was noted that Bracknell Town Council has estimated a cost of £20k for site clearance, and that the Deputy Clerk is visiting the allotment site with Smallwood Countryside Contractors to consider the project with them.

Allotments Course – it was noted that Cllr Fitzwilliams recently attended an SLCC Allotments Course.

Vegetable Take & Grow – it was noted that 3 new residents joined the allotments waiting list at this event.

- b. Future allotment sites in Warfield new development areas 1 and 3 – there was nothing to report. Cllrs then considered a proposal by Cllr Fitzwilliams to approach Thames Water regarding potential use of land east of Hazlewood Lane as a new allotment site however it was agreed that the proposal would not be pursued as the site is too far away from housing and not naturally secure.

E090. Events

- a. Vegetable Take & Grow (Saturday 23 April) – this was another successful event, with approximately 100 visitors in 1½ hours and more community participation than previous years. The Deputy Clerk will circulate an analysis of the feedback sheets, and note that an additional question will be included for 2017; ‘did you bring any vegetable plants to swap?’. The Deputy Clerk will also add biscuits, cover for the plant label table, and no green waste sacks to the 2017 checklist. It was noted that 1st Warfield Cubs wish to help again in 2017, and that other similar groups should also be invited to help.

The Deputy Clerk will arrange a prize-giving ceremony for winners of the ‘feel the ...’ competitions, immediately prior to the Council’s Annual Meeting on 25 May.

- b. Family Cycle Ride (Sunday 26 June) – Warfield Parish Council is required to provide 12 marshals for the day. The Deputy Clerk will continue to advertise on social media and the website for volunteers (one resident has already volunteered as well as some Parish Cllrs) and all volunteer details will be given to Cllr Ms Healy. A poster is now available for the event.
- c. Warfield Produce Show (Saturday 16 July) – there was nothing to report.
- d. Warfield Pumpkin Show (Sunday 25 September) – there was nothing to report.
- e. Bracknell Forest Week of Walks (Monday 3 – Sunday 9 October):

Warfield Walk (Thursday 6 October @ 4.30pm (1hr15mins)) – the Deputy Clerk will confirm that adequate insurance is in place for the walk, and ensure a suitable risk assessment is made/guidance provided to walkers.

Warfield Run (potentially Saturday 8 October @ 10am) – Cllr Ms Thorin will provide new proposals for a 5k run, and the Deputy Clerk will then consult with the Parish Council and the Bracknell Forest Society’s insurance companies to confirm that adequate insurance is in place. It is anticipated that 3 marshals will be required, plus qualified first aiders who are able to access every part of the route. A risk assessment will be required; Cllr Ms Thorin will consult with Winkfield Parish Council who have risk assessed the Family Cycle Ride. Ground condition will need to be considered. It is understood that an event licence will be required.

E091. Current and future projects

- a. Frost Folly Country Car Park – the Deputy Clerk will arrange for the repair of all sleepers surrounding the car-parking area, and request a quotation for a hard prune of all shrubs in the raised beds from Smallwood Countryside Contractors. Cllr Fitzwilliams will be asked to provide a specification for future pruning/maintenance.

Dog fouling on footpaths surrounding the site – there is already a sign close to the pedestrian exit from the car park. The Bracknell Forest Council Rights of Way Ranger has contacted the landowner to ask for assistance in encouraging dog owners to pick up. The Deputy Clerk will include an article in the next issue of the Wren newsletter, reminding of the risk to children of toxocarasis (a potentially lethal disease which can cause blindness) from dog faeces.

- b. Green space projects (succession planting of trees) – the Deputy Clerk will add the oak tree between the playground and the pond at Westmorland Park to the list of locations to be considered. The Deputy Clerk will also include an article in the next issue of the Wren newsletter, requesting residents' suggestions.
- c. Climate Change Action Plan – it was agreed that this item be kept on the agenda, but that no further actions were necessary on recycling initiatives at this time. Recycling at the Parish Office is currently seen as successful.
- d. Walking – there was nothing to report. It was agreed that Cllr Ms Thorin's proposal for a 10k run route could be used as a potential walk, run and cycle route.
- e. Running – to be considered at the next meeting.
- f. Cycling – to be considered at the next meeting.
- g. Other member suggestions – there were none.

E092. Warfield's Annual Gardening Competition

The Deputy Clerk will continue to promote the competition, and will provide both nomination forms and an A5 flyer suggesting that residents with an attractive front garden enter. The presentation of a certificate and prize to the winner of the Tallest Sunflower competition (child category) 2015 will take place before the Council meeting of Wednesday 27 April.

E093. Members' reports

- a. The 1st Warfield Rainbows have asked for help in identifying a location to plant wild flower seeds. The Deputy Clerk will contact both the Trustees of the Memorial Ground, and the Bracknell Forest Council Rangers (Westmorland Park, Edmunds Green etc) in order to find a suitable location.

E094. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 7.45pm.

E095. Closure of the meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.