

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held on **Tuesday 5 September 2017** at **7.45 pm** in the Parish Office

Present: Councillors Ms Gierth (Chair), Fitzwilliams, Ms Healy, Ms Thorin and Towle.
Cllr Dr Barnard joined the meeting part way through.

In attendance: Jason Mawer, Parish Clerk

E185. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies due.

E186. Declarations of interest and dispensations

It was noted that Cllr Dr Barnard had a standing interest as a borough and town councillor.

E187. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2017 had been previously circulated to members. It was proposed by Cllr Fitzwilliams, seconded by Cllr Ms Healy and RESOLVED by members present to approve the minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2017.

E188. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Cllr Dr Barnard joined the meeting.

E189. Allotments

Members were updated on matters discussed at the Allotment Sub-committee that met on Monday 4 September.

Site preparations

The site is being ploughed and cleared of roots. Additional soil from Syngenta is being discussed for the site.

It was agreed by the sub-committee that individual plots should be marked with pegs and boards to define areas clearly and allow pathways to become established. Individual plots would be half plots around 12x10m and quarter plots of 10x7m allowing for pathways between. Paths would need to be between 50-70cm and allowance would also need to be made for wheelchair accessible plots.

The Clerk had identified a potential surveyor to assist with the design and planning statement.

The draft rules for the site were discussed by the sub-committee. It was agreed that no animals would be permitted to be kept on site.

Potential charges were discussed and it was agreed that this should be made up of a rental charge and a service charge. It was agreed that the rental year would run from April – March. Members agreed that ploholders should understand the charging structure when signing up, therefore the charges to March 2020 would be agreed. This was based on the proposal to discount fees for 2018-19 at around 90% and 2019-20 at 50%. There is a need to agree the principle for charges for part year members. The Clerk will check if a charge has to be applied when tenancies are signed.

It was agreed by the sub-committee that water would be supplied to the site although distribution would be discussed further.

The sub-committee agreed that the publicly stated start date would be Feb 2018, although it is hoped that users could be on site earlier.

It was agreed by the sub-committee that initially construction of the communal building should be contracted. The toilet should be planned for and included in the planning application as should utility provision.

Waiting list

The Clerk provided an update on the waiting list. 88 residents were now confirmed (following a drop out). The first 23 on the list had been invited to a meeting on 12 September. The sub-committee asked the Clerk to increase this to the first 30.

Upcoming user meeting

The sub-committee discussed the proposed structure for the upcoming user meeting. The Clerk would circulate the final presentation based upon the points clarified at the meeting.

Members noted the progress and work of the sub-committee and endorsed the decisions taken. Concern was expressed regarding the calculation of rental charges and that this should be based on a full cost recovery model. The figures discussed at the meeting were initial estimates and further work would be undertaken by the Clerk to determine a budget and likely costs of operating the site.

E190. BFC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Rights of Way Improvement plan (RoWIP2) 2017-2026 was circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Bracknell Forest Council were consulting on the plan and members considered.

Members endorsed the plan but suggested that locally we should integrate the open spaces, including SANG, footpaths and RoW as it is all green infrastructure and the individual headings mean nothing to the public. Whilst this comment was outside the

scope of the consultation the Clerk would feed this back to the Parks & Countryside team.

E191. Events

a. Vegetable take and grow

Members were updated on the Take and Grow event that took place on Sunday 7 May. The event had been successful and members discussed potential dates for the 2018 event. The Clerk advised that identifying a Saturday would be difficult due to confirmed bookings in the Whitegrove CC. The Clerk would review if 28 April or 12 May were available.

b. Warfield & Winkfield Cycle Ride

Cllr Ms Healy advised members that the cycle ride had passed off with only one incident. The expected date for 2018 event was Sunday 24 June. It is likely that online registration would be introduced along with changes to the way late comers were dealt with.

c. Gardening competition

Prize giving for the 2017 competition will take place ahead of the September council meeting. It was agreed that for 2018 members would be expected to promote and nominate gardens for entry into the competition. Details would be drawn up by the Clerk.

E192. Items for information

The Clerk advised members that a feature on objections to the approved development along Watersplash Lane had appeared on the BBC South Today programme.

E193. Representatives Reports

Cllr Fitzwilliams advised the committee he was involved in hedge laying along Sopwith Road. Works were due to commence later in the month.

Cllr Dr Barnard had taken up the issue of field maples along Harvest Ride with BFC officers.

E194. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 November at 7.45pm.

E195. Closure of the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.