

Minutes of the Environmental Committee held on Monday 9th March, 2020 at 7pm the Community Resource Centre, Kinmel Bay

Present Cllrs: G Corry, B Griffiths, D Johnson (Deputy Mayor), M Jones (Mayor) J McKenna, B McLoughlin, K Redhead,

Non Voting:

Clerk: D Thomas

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Curran, M Smith and N Smith. Cllr L Knightly was absent without apology.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr M Jones declared an interest in agenda item 23 – Ground Maintenance, as he has tendered a quotation for three small ground maintenance related jobs, he withdrew from the meeting whilst the agenda item was being discussed.

3. Public Participation

There were no applications from the public to address the Council.

4. Minutes

Resolved that: The minutes of the Environmental Improvements meeting held on 20/01/2020 were approved and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising to be discussed/noted.

6. Tree Planting at Owain Glyndwr and Clwyd Park

Noted that suitable locations for the planting of 4 Rowan Trees have been discussed and agreed with residents.

Resolved that: A £1,000 of the 2019 – 20 Planting budget would be set aside to cover the cost of purchasing and planting up to 8 Rowan Trees on the Clwyd Park Estate.

Resolved that;

i) The draft letter would be hand delivered by Councillors and discussed with residents on the Clwyd Park Estate, to ensure that if any residents did object, that no trees would be planted immediately outside their properties.

ii) A working party would be set up to discuss/consider suitable locations/trees/practices and to prepare/provide input for a proposed draft planting policy to cover the whole T& KB area.

iii) The Clerk would write to all Councillors to request that should they be interested in being involved in the planting working party, that they contact the Clerk to confirm by the next Environmental Committee meeting which is on 05/05/2020.

7. Owain Glydwr Abandoned Play Area

Noted the update and most recent proposed site plans from Conwy County Borough Council.

8. Community Skip Day

Noted that the community skip day at Sandy Cove is on Wednesday 11th March, 2020.

9. Bus Shelters

Noted that the required/agreed repairs will be completed on the Chester Avenue and Seagull bus shelters by the end of March 2020.

10. Woodland at Chester Avenue

Noted the up to date position regarding the part removal of the willow.

Resolved that: The quote for the sum £2,050 from Dig It for the part removal of the willow, be approved, as the quote was considered to be very good value for money, and all work previously undertaken by Dig It has always been completed to a very good standard and in a timely manner.

11. Strip of Trees

Resolved that: The Clerk writes to Conwy County Borough Council Officers (CDS & Planning) to seek clarification regarding the trees and Conwy County Borough Council's Green Infrastructure responsibilities, and also to express the Town Council's reservations to taking over the management of the trees.

12. Outside Gym Equipment

Noted associated costs and risks in moving some of the outside gym equipment from Tir Prince Park to Chester Avenue.

Resolved that: The Town Council was not in a position to cover the cost of moving some of the existing outside gym equipment and/or purchasing new outside gym equipment for Chester Avenue.

13. Playgrounds within Towyn & Kinmel Bay

Noted that the agreed work is commencing this week at both Chester Avenue and Clwyd Park Play area, and it is anticipated that the work will be fully completed by the end of March 2020.

14. Unsafe Corners on Pavements

Noted that Conwy County Borough Council have noted the Town Council's concerns regarding the unsafe corners, and that Conwy CBC will consider improvement works, when/if funds become available.

15. Towyn & Kinmel Bay Internal Tree Survey

Noted the various papers/documents received from Conwy County Borough Council regarding children playing in woodland areas.

Noted that: Conwy are presently reviewing/updating their Health & Safety Policy, and once it has been approved by cabinet, Conwy will send a copy of the revised policy to the Town Council.

16. Benches on Sea Wall

Noted the reply from Conwy County Borough Council, that they will consider what/if to add seating schemes in the proposed coastal defence improvements, once the funding has been confirmed and detailed design has been completed.

17. Conwy County Borough Council Tree Planting Schemes and Wild Flower Meadows

Noted that Conwy County Borough Council have confirmed that they currently have no tree planting schemes in hand or planned in the Towyn & Kinmel Bay Area, however they will continue to support privately funded projects and are happy to offer advice to Town Councils on planting schemes.

Resolved that: Potentially suitable locations for wild flower meadows would be discussed/taken forward by the newly formed planting scheme working party.

18. Welsh Water Community Fund Grant Application

Noted that Welsh Water have awarded the Town Council a £500 Community Fund Grant.

Resolved that: The clerk would complete/return the required paperwork to Welsh Water, to enable Welsh Water to award the grant.

19. Height Barrier at Y Morfa

Resolved that: The Town Council would make the £1,000 payment to Y Morfa, and that a covering letter/email would be sent stating that the money must be used for the installation of a height barrier at the Y Morfa car park.

20. St Asaph Avenue Footbridge

Noted the recent issue with graffiti on the bridge, which has been reported to the police and Conwy CBC.

21. Planting Policy, Community Green Pledges and Carbon Zero

Resolved that: The newly formed working party would discuss/take forward the preparation of the draft/proposed planting policy, and the community green pledges and carbon zero paperwork.

22. Shelters on the Promenade

Resolved that: The Town Council would revisit the position regarding shelters on the promenade, once it was known, if replacement shelters were to be included as part of the proposed coastal defence improvements.

23. Ground Maintenance Contract

Resolved that: The following three quotes from Cllr Morris Jones, be approved, as all three of the quotes were deemed to be very good value for money.

- a) £45 to re-site the sign at the Chester Avenue Woodland (labour only).
- b) £75 to adjust the hinges on three metal gates and to level off the ground at Chester Avenue woodland.
- c) £100 to prepare the ground and plant 4 trees on the grass verges at Owain Glyndwr Estate (labour only).

The Chairman asked Cllr McKenna why she had abstained from voting. Cllr McKenna advised that she was involved in a local job club, and felt that members of the job club may have welcomed the opportunity to quote for the work. The Chairman asked, if any of the Councillors would like to suggest an alternative proposal. Cllr B McLoughlin stated that once a resolution had been passed it could not be overturned/changed. Cllr McLoughlin went on to say, that if the Chairman pursued this, then she would like an objection minuted, regarding the chairman's conduct in the meeting, as she felt that the Chairman was out of order asking for an alternative proposal, once a resolution had been made.

The Councillors discussed the matter, and it was resolved that the initial resolution would be slightly amended, to the three quotes from Cllr Morris Jones were approved, subject to clarification from Cllr Jones that he has suitable Public Liability Insurance is in place.

Noted that Cllr McKenna would speak to the members of the local job club, and if any of the members were interested in providing the Town Council with quotes for any future Ground/Building Maintenance related work, then she would ask them to contact the clerk to register their interest, as the Town Council struggles to obtain quotes for small jobs.

Noted that a Purchase Order had been issued to Dig It to confirm the approval of their quote for the sum of £832, to undertake improvement works at the Chester Avenue Woodland. The quote was approved as it was considered to be good value for money.

Resolved that: The Environmental Committee recommend to Full Council at the March Full Council meeting, that Greenfingers are awarded a new 3 year fixed price/term contract, subject to Greenfingers agreeing to that any annual increase in line with RPI. The Greenfingers quote was considered to be the best value for money, and was also the cheapest of the 5 quotes received.

Noted that a purchase order had been issued to Greenfingers to confirm the approval of their quote for the sum of £550 to undertake improvements to the grass verge at Towyn Way West. The quote was approved as it was deemed to be good value for money and Greenfingers have always completed work to a high standard and in a timely manner. The work has been completed, and the invoice has been paid.

Resolved that: The quote for the sum of £595 to install 7 bollards on the grass verge on Towyn Way West be approved, as the quote was considered to be good value for money.

24. Wooden Fence at Playing Field on St Asaph Avenue

Resolved that: The Clerk would write to Conwy County Borough Council to ascertain the position regarding the wooden fence at the playing field on St Asaph Avenue, as Councillors are concerned that the fence is leaning into the road and is a potential health & safety issue.

25. Vacant Plot on Cader Avenue

Resolved that: The Clerk would write to Conwy to express the Town Council's ongoing concern regarding both the state of the plot and the number of recent bonfires on the plot.

26. Flooding Outside Shaw's Service Station

Resolved that: The Clerk writes to the cabinet member for ERF to express the Town Council's concern regarding the flooding, and the fact that the flooding has been more frequent and deeper since the Foryd Road Scheme has been completed.

Noted that residents and local business' have indicated that the flooding is starting to have an adverse effect on their businesses.

Noted that water appears to be coming up through the drain, and this apparently was not the case prior to the road scheme being completed.

27. Conwy County Borough County Council – Replacement Local Development Plan Newsletter

Noted the newsletter.

28. Community Plan

Noted the informal minutes of the Community Place Plan – Task & Finish Group meeting which was held on 10/02/2020.

Resolved that:

- i) The Clerk would write to the Councillors to request their suggestions for amending the description for Kinmel Bay on the Understanding Welsh Places Website.
- ii) The Councillors would be asked to forward any suggestions by the next Environmental Improvements meeting.

29. Dog Fouling Issues on the Clwyd Park Estate

Noted the issues with dog fouling on the Clwyd Park Estate.

Noted that signs will be installed shortly in the Woodlands on Chester Avenue by way of a pilot, and if considered effective the Town Council could/would look to install signage in problem areas within Towyn & Kinmel Bay.

30. Caravan Park Owners Forum

Resolved that: The Clerk would write to Councillors to ask for volunteers who would be interested in representing the Council at future meetings of the Caravan Park Owner Forum. Any interested Councillors would need to advise the clerk of their interest by the next Environmental Improvements Meeting.

31. Towyn & Kinmel Bay Show – Community Orchards

Resolved that: Due to the number of agenda items being discussed in tonight's meeting, this agenda item would not be discussed tonight, and would be added to the next Environmental meeting.

32. Public Phone Box – Proposed Removal

The Councillors were concerned to learn that BT were intending to remove the public phone box at Woodside Avenue, in Kinmel Bay.

Resolved that: The Clerk would object to the proposed removal of the phone box for the following reasons: -

Under overriding criteria

- coastal location.

Under reasonable needs

- Only public call box for 800 metres.
- At least 500 households with 1km
- At least 12 calls have been made in the previous 12 months (Actual number of phone calls 112).

33. Keep Wales Tidy

Resolved that: Cllr B McLoughlin would be delegated the decision, to decide which of the three Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature Packages (wild life garden, fruit garden and butterfly garden) she felt would be most suitable for Towyn & Kinmel Bay.

Noted that the playing field on St Asaph Avenue has been identified, and nominated by the Town Council, as a potential Little Forest site, under the Keep Wales Tidy Little Forest Scheme.

Noted the Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean Event which was being held between 20th March and the 13th April, 2020.

34. Works Schedule

The Clerk presented the up to date Environmental Improvements Work Schedule to the Councillors.

Noted the up to date position regarding the various 2019-20 projects/works.

Meeting closed at 21:05

Signed by the Chairman of the FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 24th June 2020. (Decision made at Full Council AM on 27 May 2020 for the Environmental Committee to cease).