



Stainland and District Parish Council 6th Environmental Committee Minutes

29th October 2019

Present:

Councillor L Fieldhouse (Chair), Councillor M Mullany (minute taker), Councillor J Doherty.
Alex Lyness-Brown (AL-B) also attended having expressed an interest in assisting the committee on a co-opted basis.

Members of the Public: 0

	Item
19.E6.1	<p>Apologies and Reasons for Absence and Lateness To receive apologies and approve any reasons for absence presented to the Council. <i>Cllrs Bellenger, Foster, Lee & Dixon sent their apologies.</i> It was resolved to accept the apologies. <i>No apologies were received from Cllr Holdsworth.</i></p>
19.E6.2	<p>Public Participation Session <i>No members of the public attended</i></p>
19.E6.3	<p>To receive Parish Councillors' declarations of interest. <i>No declarations of interests were received.</i></p>
19.E6.4	<p>To accept the minutes of the 5th Environment Committee meeting of Stainland and District Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th October 2019 a) for the Chair to sign & date the previous minutes. It was resolved to approve said minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.</p>
19.E6.5	<p>To discuss the success of the skip project & the possibility of repeating the project <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that the trial project had gone very well with positive feedback on Stainland Facebook page. A single skip serving the whole of the West View/The Crescent estate was filled between 8am and 12 noon by local residents and by Parish Councillors who also undertook a litter pick of the surrounding area including Church Lane. All waste generated was sorted by the skip company and recycled where possible.</i></p> <p><i>Although a single skip proved adequate for the area on the day it was felt that at future events the volume of waste generated may increase as more people become aware of the project. It was felt that skips should be sited to make it as easy as possible for people to walk to them and minimise car trips.</i></p> <p><i>Repeating the event at other locations in the parish was discussed including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Fall Spring Gardens - A L-B said that there was no current issue here with un-cleared waste items and therefore no need for the project at this time</i> <i>• Bradley View – it was felt that finding a suitable site for the project may be difficult here.</i> <p>It was resolved to monitor all areas and consider repeating the project in 2020 as need arises.</p>

19.E6.6	<p>To receive an update on the Tree Preservation Order project. Cllr Fieldhouse reported that CMBC Tree Officer Keith Grady had prepared a large scale map of current TPOs in force in the area for the Parish Council. This needed to be collected from CMBC offices. Action: AL-B to collect the map from Halifax.</p> <p>Cllr Mullany outlined criteria for TPO designation based on amenity value as set out in Government guidance 'Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas'. Cllr Mullany to prepare simple assessment/survey sheet based on these criteria. This could be used for scoring any candidate trees within the parish which might be considered worthy of TPO.</p>
19.E6.7	<p>To receive an update on the possibility of engaging an Handyperson to carry out jobs within the Parish Cllr Fieldhouse to ask clerk to seek advice from our insurers regarding requirements for covering such a position (which would involve a small number of hours on a self-employed basis) and to advise on whether formal recruitment procedures in terms of advertising/interview etc would need to be implemented.</p>
19.E6.8	<p>To discuss the proposed Co-option of Tony Weeks to the committee It was resolved, after an unanimous vote, to co-opt Tony Weeks on to the Committee. Tony had attended the previous meeting and expressed interest in becoming a co-opted member. He accepted that as such he would not have voting rights</p>
19.E6.9	<p>To discuss ideas for the next Environment Committee Project Walking bus AL-B proposed this project which provides a closely supervised, high visibility walk to school for young children, picking up from various 'stops' on a given route. This project could assist in addressing school run congestion/air pollution issues and promote active travel for local children. Costs of the project would be low but would include DBS checks for volunteer supervisors, hi-vis vests for children etc.</p> <p>AL-B provided copies of Eden Project Communities guidance Organising A Walking Bus for discussion. https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/organise-a-walking-bus It was felt that a route serving both local primary schools from both ends of the parish could be investigated, though it was accepted that pedestrian conditions on parts of the route were far from ideal and there may need to be police assistance. It was resolved that the Council should seek the involvement of both schools in the project with a view to commencing after Easter 2020.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Fieldhouse to make informal enquiries at Holywell Green School and ask Cllr Foster if she could do the same at Bowling Green School.</p>
19.E6.10	<p>To receive an update on the replacement of the knee rails at Stainland Memorial Park by CMBC Cllr Fieldhouse reported that CMBC had been made aware that they are rotting away and missing in some places. Mark Spencer has been contacted for an update.</p>
19.E6.11	<p>To hear feedback on initial investigations in to costs of possible projects Gardening/Landscaping work Cllr Fieldhouse reported on further quotes received for gardening/landscaping work and these have been passed on to the Clerk</p>
19.E6.12	<p>To discuss preparation of Climate change action plan for the Parish. This item was delegated to the Environment Committee to initiate at the last Full Council. A preliminary discussion of possible actions took place based on the recently published Friends of the Earth guidance '20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency' https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car sharing - Cllr Doherty to look into existing car sharing schemes in the area, how these might be promoted by the Council eg on social media, signs in car parks etc and whether there would be any implications for insurance etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public transport -Cllr Doherty to report back on previous quotes obtained by the Council for providing additional bus services in the parish, to address current deficiencies</i> • <i>Renewable Energy - Cllr Mullany to report back on investigation into feasibility of installing renewable energy technology on Council/community buildings</i> • <i>Home energy efficiency - A L-B reported on the lack of thermostat control in Together Housing properties on Fall Spring Gardens meaning residents were forced to choose between inefficient expensive heating or no heating.</i> • <i>Community Engagement - Cllr Fieldhouse to contact clerk regarding details of engagement events planned by other Parish Councils which we could learn from. Cllr Doherty to contact Ripponden Parish Council to explore potential for collaboration.</i> • <i>Action Plan - Cllr Mullany to compile preliminary draft plan for further consideration at the next meeting.</i>
19.E6.13	<p>To review potential actions to mitigate air quality/emissions issues arising from school runs in the Parish <i>It was resolved that, following discussion with local schools, councillors have a visible presence at the school run on a regular basis engaging with drivers in a relaxed manner on the issue, handing out a leaflet on the impacts of idling engines and monitoring improvements over time. This activity could also help to build community support for the proposed walking bus project.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Mullany to contact CMBC regarding possibility of loaning anti-idling banner for displaying outside schools to support the awareness raising activity. With involvement from schools, a poster designed by local schoolchildren could also be developed.</i></p> <p><i>Example ‘anti-idling’ leaflets from other Councils were considered. These provided a useful basis for a local leaflet.</i></p>
19.E6.14	<p>To update Committee on Calderdale MBC policy on Glyphosate and related campaigns (as agreed at last meeting) <i>Following communication from a local resident, Cllr Mullany provided details of Calderdale Council’s position on the use of this pesticide which has aroused public concern around its effects on human health and the environment, particularly as it is widely used on public greenspace.</i></p> <p><i>Responding to these concerns about glyphosate CMBC set targets in 2016 to reduce its usage by 10% each year. Only around 800 litres are now used compared to 2000 litres in 2016, which represents a significant reduction, but the Council now wants to go further and stop usage altogether.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of its application within the parish, AL-B provided photographic evidence of herbicide damage to the edge of verges around Fall Spring Gardens where large patches of bare soil were left by the housing provider’s contractors leaving a muddy mess. There is also concern about the use of the pesticide on wildflower areas.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Fieldhouse will try to raise this concern through the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Team.</i></p>
19.E6.15	<p>To agree Agenda items for the next meeting. <i>No items were agreed</i></p>
19.E6.16	<p>To agree a date and time for the next meeting. 26th November 2019 at 6.30pm at Stainland Library.</p>

Meeting closed at: 8.45pm