



Stainland and District Parish Council 8th Environmental Committee Minutes

7th January 2020

Present:

Councillor L Fieldhouse (Chair & minute taker), Councillor M Mullany, Councillor Foster, Alex Lyness-Brown (AL-B), & Tony Weeks.

Members of the Public: 0

	Item
19.E8.1	<p>Apologies and Reasons for Absence and Lateness To receive apologies and approve any reasons for absence presented to the Council. <i>Cllrs Doherty, Bellenger & Lee sent their apologies.</i> It was resolved to accept the apologies.</p>
19.E8.2	<p>Public Participation Session <i>No members of the public attended</i></p>
19.E8.3	<p>To receive Parish Councillors' declarations of interest. <i>No declarations of interests were received.</i></p>
19.E8.4	<p>To accept the minutes of the 7th Environment Committee meeting of Stainland and District Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th November 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.E8.5	<p>To agree Cllr Foster resigning from the committee <i>Cllr Foster withdrew this item and will be remaining on the committee</i></p>
19.E8.6	<p>To discuss seeking planning permission for the removal of a conifer tree at the entrance of Stainland Memorial Park in preparation of a new planting scheme . <i>Informal discussions with officers from CMBC have established there are no objections to removing the tree.. The diameter of the trunk is below the specified size for planning permission to be required, the tree is in a precarious position over the rockery and car park and takes light and moisture away from other plants.</i> It was resolved that the removal of the tree is justified and that removal should go ahead using the most competitive quotation . Action: Cllr Fieldhouse and TW to obtain further quotations.</p>
19.E8.7	<p>To review draft consultation letter to residents regarding proposed removal of a tree at the entrance to Stainland Park <i>The wording for the letter was agreed and Cllr Foster and ALB offered to deliver the letters to residents living nearby</i></p>
19.E8.8	<p>To discuss ideas on how to best approach / plan tree planting projects to encourage community engagement and to identify possible sites within the district. Three ideas were discussed, all would use trees supplied by the PC via the Woodland Trust which can be acquired free of charge at certain times of year or purchased at reasonable cost. <i>A - Offering free trees and hedging plants to residents to plant in gardens. This would require coordinated timing of purchasing trees and distribution of trees to residents.</i></p>

	<p><i>B- Involving schools with planting trees locally in Stainland and Sowood Parks.</i></p> <p><i>This would need planning with schools and require toilet facilities. Cllr Foster suggested the Cricket pavilion would be an ideal venue. An additional environment themed activity or talk could be incorporated to make this idea more attractive to the schools. ALB suggested a possible contact to approach for this.</i></p> <p><i>CMBC have agreed in theory to planting trees in the parks</i> <i>Cllr Mullany and TW will identify some potential areas in the parks and submit a map to CMBC for full approval</i></p> <p><i>C - Approaching farmers and land owners to volunteer land for larger planting schemes</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Mullany and TW will work on identifying sites and contact The Woodland Trust and Treesponsibility for advice and any practical support they may be able to offer</i></p>
19.E8.9	<p>To discuss draft consultation letter to residents regarding planting trees in Sowood park <i>The draft was approved and Cllr Mullany and TW will deliver the letter to residents whilst identifying sites</i></p>
19.E8.10	<p>To receive an update on the Climate Change Action Plan & the CMBC Climate Working Group meeting held on 18th December 2019 <i>Cllr Mullany attended the meeting which included a report on a proposed CMBC bid to the National Lottery Climate Fund by the end of March 2020. An initial workshop to develop the bid had taken place in early December and involved some 45 community organisations in Calderdale. It was noted that the Parish Council had not received an invitation to the workshop. A further workshop is proposed early this year. Cllr Mullany to establish when this is and ensure Parish Council is invited to attend.</i></p>
19.E8.11	<p>To discuss the progression of the project to repaint the railings in Holywell green, and if appropriate, to consider the quotations received and agree on a contractor to carry out the work. <i>Three quotes had been obtained for painting</i> It was resolved to proceed with the most competitive contractor - Halls who are also CHAS Registered and a reputable local firm. <i>Cllr Fieldhouse explained that the area behind the railings had been partly tidied by CMBC but that fallen trees and some soil still need moving away from the base of the railings before they can be painted</i> <i>A registered tree surgeon contractor has been approached to carry out this work on a day rate basis of £450. It was resolved this was acceptable due to the very reasonable quotation obtained for the repainting work and general improvement to the area.</i></p>
19.E8.12	<p>To discuss any response from CMBC regarding the Parish Council seeking permission to carry out projects in the area <i>A list of projects requiring permission has been submitted to CMBC</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported on a site meeting with Mark Spencer and had received verbal permission for work on the railings and rockery garden along with re painting scaffolding type railings and play equipment in the Parish.</i> <i>CMBC will also collect any green waste cleared by the Environmental Warden free of charge once the post is filled.</i></p> <p><i>Permission was also given for the Parish Council to replace old litter bins with heritage styles. Free - standing bins can be purchased from CMBC at reduced costs.</i></p> <p><i>Removal of concrete posts at the Fall Spring Entrance to Memorial Park – CMBC’s view is that the complete removal will possibly cause the path to crumble and part removal of just the posts or back filling and covering with plants were not considered satisfactory solutions by the Parish Council. TW suggested engaging with a suitable contractor to find a way of removing them without jeopardising the path or the adjacent wall that would be acceptable to all parties.</i></p> <p><i>Enquiries regarding permission for festive lighting and hanging baskets are on-going.</i></p>

19.E8.13	<p>To hear feedback on initial investigations in to costs of possible projects</p> <p>Bus services <i>As part of a continuing project to look at how bus services in the area might be improved, Cllr Mullany had acquired some information from the Dept. of Transport web site regarding operating costs per mile for bus services (current rate 358p per mile for Metropolitan areas). This figure multiplied by the total mileage involved in any additional or extended services proposed would provide a costing to inform discussion of options. MM to develop some examples.</i></p> <p>Parish Boundary Walk <i>Cllr Mullany explained that a published leaflet of walks in the parish already existed. Therefore some duplication would be likely if the Parish Council was to produce its own guide. However Cllr Mullany stated that the condition of some footpaths on the boundary was poor. Making improvements to public footpaths lies within the powers of the Parish Council and it was agreed that this might be a future project.</i> <i>Cllr Mullany will report back regarding the type of improvements that may be required.</i> <i>ALB suggested posting QR codes on the existing paths which would link to the Parish Council web site and would provide further information about the route and area.</i></p>
19.E8.14	<p>To agree Agenda items for the next meeting</p> <p>Updates on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment of Environment Warden</i> • <i>Job list and notice board for warden to be tasked with</i> • <i>Walking bus project</i> • <i>Rockery and railings work</i> • <i>Hanging baskets and Festive lighting</i> • <i>Dog waste bins</i>
19.E8.15	<p>To agree a date and time for the next meeting.</p> <p>Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.00 pm</p>

Meeting closed at: 7.45pm