



Stainland and District Parish Council 9th Environmental Committee Minutes

4th February 2020

Present:

Councillor L Fieldhouse (Chair), Councillor M Mullany (minute taker) & Tony Weeks (co-opted member)

Members of the Public: 0

	Item
19.E9.1	<p>Apologies and Reasons for Absence and Lateness To receive apologies and approve any reasons for absence presented to the Council. <i>Cllrs Lee, Bellenger, Holdsworth, Doherty, Foster & Alex Lyness-Brown sent their apologies. It was resolved to accept the apologies.</i></p>
19.E9.2	<p>Public Participation Session <i>No members of the public attended</i></p>
19.E9.3	<p>To receive Parish Councillors' declarations of interest. <i>No declarations of interests were received.</i></p>
19.E9.4	<p>To accept the minutes of the 8th Environment Committee meeting of Stainland and District Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 a) for the Chair to sign & date the previous minutes. <i>It was resolved to approve said minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.</i></p> <p><i>Matters arising from the minutes:</i> Sowood Park - Regarding proposed tree planting at Sowood Park, Cllr Fieldhouse reported that responses received following neighbour consultation had been passed to the clerk. Cllr Mullany and TW had visited the site to talk to a resident of Greenfield Close who was supportive of the proposals providing they were not likely to cause further shading of his property which adjoins the site of two existing mature trees. The resident was assured that only low growing shrubs were planned in areas close to properties. Cllr Mullany and TW surveyed and photographed the site with a view to seeking design advice/quotes from potential suppliers. Stainland Memorial Park - Cllr Mullany and TW had also surveyed Stainland Memorial Park and identified significant scope for tree planting in addition to a number of other issues including broken drystone walls. TW suggested a drystone walling training course might be worth exploring. Cllr Fieldhouse noted that Stainland Cricket Club had previously offered this so would be able to advise. Cllr Fieldhouse suggested in the longer term the Park may be suitable for designation as a Local Nature Reserve, serving as an educational resource for local schools. Cllr Mullany to contact CMBC to see if the Park may fit the criteria for Local Nature Reserve designation.</p>
19.E9.5	<p>To receive an update on the employment of an Environment Warden Cllr Fieldhouse reported that 2 applications had been received to date with a number of additional enquiries. Cllr Fieldhouse stated that the new Warden will need an employment contract which could be</p>

	<i>sourced from CMBC or Bingley Town Council who had recently made a similar appointment</i>
19.E9.6	<p>To receive an update on the job list that the Environmental Warden will be tasked with & notice board..</p> <p><i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that she was compiling a list of jobs for the Warden. These included a long list of tasks compiled on a recent survey of local footpath issues identified by a local resident. Cllr Fieldhouse had been in touch with CMBC Rights of Way Section and was awaiting approval for the Parish Council to progress footpath work if they would provide necessary materials etc.</i></p> <p><i>TW added the jobs identified on the recent survey of Stainland Park eg damage to walls some of which reflected the need for better access as well as vandalism.</i></p> <p><i>In general, it was agreed that some jobs requiring urgent action could be issued to the Warden by the clerk but for more ongoing tasks/improvements Environment Committee direction would be appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>TW to look at options for purchasing a whiteboard on which tasks for the Warden could be posted in the library.</i></p>
19.E9.7	<p>To receive an update on the Walking Bus Project</p> <p><i>No report available due to the absence of ALB. Item deferred to next meeting.</i></p>
19.E9.8	<p>To receive an update on the rockery and railings work</p> <p>Stainland Memorial Park Rockery - <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that the large Conifer tree was due to be removed on Thursday 6th February, following no response being received from the consultation of residents nearby. Cllr Fieldhouse to post a notice to prevent cars parking nearby when tree work is in progress. Felling of the tree is to be followed on Monday 10th February by stump removal and weed-killer application at a cost of £225. Cllr Fieldhouse and TW to look at possible planting schemes in line with relevant budget.</i></p> <p>Stainland Road Railings – <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that painting of the railings was booked and would take place whenever the weather was suitable. Work to include clearing some of the built up soil and brash from behind railings will commence In the half term school holidays. The budget of £240 for this work was based on a day rate quotation from a contractor.</i></p>
19.E9.9	<p>To discuss hanging baskets and festive lighting</p> <p>Hanging baskets - <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported problems encountered in progressing this project. CMBC were unable to service the project in terms of watering baskets and CMBC Highways were not supportive of attaching baskets to lamp-posts, even if the Parish Council provided the necessary brackets.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding watering, Cllr Fieldhouse reported that a local window cleaner had quoted £75 to water all the proposed baskets but this would be required every five days for two months and as such would add significant costs to the project.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Fieldhouse suggested if it was not viable to proceed with hanging baskets, tubs could be attached to railings and planted up (eg by Stainland Cross). Cllr Fieldhouse to pursue options.</i></p> <p>Festive lighting – <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that CMBC would not allow the Parish Council to employ a contractor to install Christmas decorations to lighting columns in the Parish. CMBC undertaking the work directly would mean an increase in costs on budget to £7,000 for first year, with approx. £500 annual round cost thereafter. A revised budget proposal of £10,000 will therefore have to go back to full Council. In terms of the lighting itself, a Lancashire based company - Lite - used by Hebden Bridge for their lights had been recommended by CMBC Cllr Fieldhouse to obtain catalogue and arrange a meeting with a representative</i></p>
19.E9.10	<p>To discuss dog waste bins.</p> <p><i>TW reported a lack of dog waste bins in the Sowood area, both on The Hame to Stainland and up towards Outlane and also on Moor Hey Lane. He suggested there were opportunities where there were no houses, but lamp-posts in place. Cllr Fieldhouse stated that emptying the bins was the main problem for CMBC, particularly off the main road. Cllr Fieldhouse suggested opposite Sowood Community Centre where bungalows are. This site has no bin at present. The Parish Council could provide bins but getting them emptied was the problem and it was not felt that this would be an appropriate task for the Environmental Warden. Cllr</i></p>

	<i>Fieldhouse to enquire with CMBC regarding supply and emptying bins.</i>
19.E9.11	<p>To receive an update on the transfer of Drury Lane allotments & nominate a member to liaise with the landlords.</p> <p><i>Cllr Fieldhouse informed the meeting of correspondence recently received from CMBC setting out actions required to progress the transfer. A Parish Council contact was required whose details could be given to the landlord so that discussion of any new lease could take place. TW agreed to act as the contact. CMBC's letter stated that in order to grant consent for the surrender of the lease, the Secretary of State would need to know whether all existing allotment holders would be offered agreements when the Parish Council took over. Cllr Fieldhouse to inform CMBC that this would be the case.</i></p> <p><i>CMBC advised that costs associated with transfer included annual operating costs (with water) of £150. Annual income was £1300. No health and safety requirements were identified and that the Parish Council may wish to seek its own legal advice to draw up lease agreements. TW indicated that in reality there was scope for improvements eg. fencing needs repair and rubbish needs removing. However, there was no suitable access to get equipment in and out (only entrance via Drury Lane). There was better access potential from the west but ownership of this land was unknown. A map of CMBC assets allotment confirmed the boundary of the CMBC site. It was noted that there were other allotments outside this boundary, possibly plots utilised by nearby houses</i></p>
19.E9.12	<p>To discuss the repair of the telephone box opposite the Library</p> <p><i>It was resolved that this should be added to the Environmental Warden's job list. TW to obtain a quote for the repairs from an independent source as a back-up.</i></p>
19.E9.13	<p>To discuss inviting Together Housing to discuss the excessive use of pesticides</p> <p><i>This issue had been discussed at a recent Safer Greener Cleaner meeting which Cllr Foster had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. Minutes of that meeting were awaited.</i></p>
19.E9.14	<p>To hear feedback on initial investigations in to costs of possible projects</p> <p>Redundant concrete fence posts in Stainland Park - <i>Cllr Fieldhouse reported that ownership had been established. The owners would need to gift the land to the PC and seem happy to do so. One quote (for £1200 +VAT) had already been obtained and further quotes will be sought .Cllr Fieldhouse to check with YLCA regarding the procedure for gifting and accepting property.</i></p>
19.E9.15	<p>To agree Agenda items for the next meeting.</p> <p><i>To be identified prior to next agenda deadline.</i></p>
19.E9.16	<p>To agree a date and time for the next meeting.</p> <p><i>Thursday 5th March (and every first Thursday thereafter) 7pm.</i></p>

Meeting closed at: 8.50pm