



**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024 AT 9.30 AM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Charnock, Cllr Stevens, and Cllr Bicknell

IN ATTENDANCE: - Sharon Baxter (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and Bethan Emerick (Administrative Assistant) plus one member of the public.

1. To appoint a Committee Chairperson – Cllr Charnock was appointed as the Chairperson of the Environment & Recreation Committee.
2. Apologies: Cllr Clamp (Personal) - Accepted
3. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature – None
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes

4. Minutes: The minutes of The Environment & Recreation Committee of 07.11.2023 having been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.
Matters Arising: None.
5. MRWP Update - Cllr Clamp – As Cllr Clamp was not present, it was reported that the invoice has now been received for the 4 replacement barrels for the front of the Community Centre. A brief discussion took place regarding the state of the daffodil signs situated around the village and whilst it was agreed that they have served a purpose, Cllr Charnock reported that he had contacted two companies to obtain some quotes to replace them.
RECOMMENDATION: To purchase 50 weatherproof, pre-drilled signs branded with the KPC logo to place around the Parish to protect the daffodils and verges.
6. The Rocky - Update – It was reported that tree works had been undertaken previously on the yew tree at the Rocky but that works to the hornbeam tree had not progressed. Cllr Charnock to conduct a site visit before making an application for tree works online.
It was also reported that the bridge has been taped up as it is currently dangerous and not fit for purpose. One quotation has been received for repair works to the bridge, but more quotations are needed. The urgency of the situation was stressed by Councillors due to the dangerous state of the bridge. Clerk to provide contact details for a previous contractor to Cllr Charnock to progress with obtaining further quotations. It was suggested that additional signs be printed and displayed to warn Parishioners that the bridge is closed for maintenance.
7. Playing Fields – Plovers Rise
 - a. To attend to various boundary fences and trees – Cllr Stevens to liaise with the Lengthsman to conduct a site visit with a contractor to determine the areas that need attention. Cllr Stevens to obtain quotations for this work.

Action

- b. Monthly visual inspection rota – Cllr Charnock reported that he had carried out the March inspection and a brief rota was discussed for the next few months where it was agreed that Cllr Charnock would also conduct the visual inspection in April. The Clerk reported that the ROSPA inspection was expected to be carried out imminently.
8. Update on gap in the hedgerow at Bannut Hill – A brief discussion took place, and it was resolved that the Committee didn't think it was the responsibility of the Parish Council.
 9. To discuss the Hedgehog Highway Project – The Hedgehog Highway Project was discussed favourably, and it was suggested that it be incorporated into the biodiversity project being looked at by the Biodiversity Working Party. Cllr Charnock suggested that the project be advertised in the Kempsey Times and on the parish noticeboards. Clerk to respond to the initial query to register the Committees interest in the project.
 10. To discuss wildflower verge development project – It was reported that a huge amount of maintenance would be needed, and it was suggested that the project could potentially be picked up under the PFL project in the future.
 11. Missing Life buoy by the church – Cllr Charnock to investigate the legal status and associated costs of replacing the buoy.
 12. Any Other Business
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** To refurbish and unify the noticeboards in the Parish, including the outlying areas, with the Lengthsman to service them by placing generic notices, the monthly Parish Council agenda and information from community groups on them on a regular basis.
 - It was reported that a request had been received from a Parishioner regarding the low level of lighting around the Sports Pavilion when walking to and from the tennis courts. It was agreed that there was a need for additional lighting to improve visibility. Cllr Stevens to investigate the cost of 2x LED sensor lights and obtain quotations for installation.
 - Cllr Charnock asked the Committee if any further progress had been made with regards to the bus shelters supplied by Taylor Wimpey. It was reported that no further progress had been made and it was agreed to place an item on the agenda to discuss the matter at full council.

Meeting Closed at 10:45 AM

SignedChairman.....Date

Standing Order were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Parishioner referenced the noticeboards around the Parish and suggested that the Parish Council refurbish them to make them more uniform and update them more regularly to enable Parishioners in the outlying areas to have better access to Parish Council information. It was suggested that these additional noticeboards be serviced once a month so the monthly agendas for the Parish Council meetings can be displayed.

Standing Orders were reimposed.