



**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24
FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11.00 AM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Plummer, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Clamp and Cllr Biddle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Witton - Deputy Clerk

1. **Apologies:** None

2. 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
3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature

3. **To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation** (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - written requests to be submitted to the clerk prior to the meeting - None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

4. **Minutes:**

Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 October 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. To outline the Environment FY 2025/26 action plan and allocation of budget

Confirmed Budget allocations were reviewed, and areas of priority for the next 6 months were identified as:

- a. The potential to replace bridges at the Rocky with low maintenance, good quality, aesthetically appropriate bridges and two quotes for such works to be obtained by the parish office
- b. A one off deep clean for the 2 bus shelters located on the main road and a planned twice-yearly inspection of those shelters to determine further cleaning and maintenance requirements.
- c. To pursue funding and/or other opportunities for two further bus shelters on the Main Road.
- d. Consideration was given to providing additional benches within the village, to provide rest stops for walkers. Environment committee councillors will communicate with the commons and recreation committee to determine if benches should be located on the commons.
- e. The management of the Hornbeam tree at the Rocky. An application to be submitted by the parish office to MHDC for the required tree works.

6. Environment task tracker

1. Review of tracker for accuracy and gaps

Cllrs reviewed the first draft of a task tracker that consolidates all actions relating to the environment committee. It was confirmed as a working document.

Actions confirmed as:

- a. to remove the life buoy mount from Lanes End

- b. confirm with the Parish lengthsman that there is not a statutory requirement to place barriers across the road near to the ford, when water levels rise there.
- c. To liaise with Commons and Hams committee to relocate the large cricket frames located behind the basketball hoops at Plovers Rise.
- d. To clear the area in front of the containers of mud, debris and overgrown turf at Plovers Rise to make it more accessible.

2. Status Update of actions regarding environment issues raised to the office. (Water gauge signs, white caps for marker gates, tree works at the Rocky, damaged pavement on Church Street)

An update was provided on actions completed, primarily that tree works had been completed at the Rocky, a request to WCC for 12-foot water markers had been made and a request for a replacement kerb at the small island on Church Street

7. Noticeboards

1. To discuss a policy for noticeboards

The noticeboard review was discussed, and it was agreed to recommend at the Kempsey Parish Council meeting 10 March 2025, to retain the two noticeboards located at the Community Centre and Parish Hall, and also providing a recommendation for how to deal with outlying noticeboards.

8. MRWP

1. Update from Cllr Clamp –

The Main Road Working Party are exploring the option to add planters to the railings area close to the Ford and Rocky at the rear of St Mary's church.

The parish office confirmed no date had been secured for the planting of a new Cherry Tree at the agreed location on the A38

2. Rocky Vision discussion – item DEFERRED

9. Playgrounds

1. Review of playground inspections and actions

The annual ROSPA inspection is scheduled for March. Monthly visual inspections continue with actions being noted.

Instructions for use for the outdoor gym equipment to be sourced and added as QR code links to each piece of equipment.

2. To discuss the smoke free playground update from CALC

Item DEFERRED

10. Review of reporting process re verge, hedgerow, pavement issues raised by parishioners to ensure it is streamlined and clear.

The parish office confirmed that the process of reporting items to the parish lengthsman is streamlined and effective. Items that are for the attention of WCC should be reported using the online process.

11. To make a decision on installation of Solar panels for VAS signs

It was agreed to recommend at the Kempsey Parish Council Meeting 10 March 2025, the installation of a solar panel to the portable VAS sign on Main Road Kempsey.

12. Any Other Business.

A discussion arose regarding areas of overlap with the commons and recreation committee, in particular the boundary hedge and tree maintenance at Plovers Rise. A meeting to be arranged between Chairs of both committees to outline areas of responsibility.

Meeting Closed at 1.10pm

Signed Chairman..... Date.....