

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2016**

PRESENT: Councillors Harvey, Horner, Marshall, Payne and Walsby.

Also present: Councillor O'Brien

OFFICER: Stephen Hedges

For Information: Councillor Harvey chaired the commencement of the meeting.

ENV01/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Councillors Ms Doman, Jones and Varrall.

ENV02/16 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: THAT COUNCILLOR JONES BE ELECTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

ENV03/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations made.

ENV04/16 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: THAT COUNCILLOR HORNER BE ELECTED COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

For Information: Councillor Horner assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting

ENV05/16 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
No items were raised.

ENV06/16 **MINUTES**
i) Wednesday 9th September 2015

RESOLVED: THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

ii) Wednesday 25th November 2015

RESOLVED: THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2016 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

ENV08/16 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
There were no matters raised.

ENV08/16 **PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**
The revamp of the walks leaflet was discussed in some detail with regards to its format and areas of inclusion. It was agreed that the leaflet should encompass the northern routes as well. It was suggested that as well as the paper format, an electronic version on the website should also be made available.

Councillor Harvey informed the meeting of several footpath issues that had been reported to the Borough's Rights of Way Officer.

The meeting was informed that a stile that had been installed by the landowner on Footpath 6 had since been removed as no permission had been given.

ENV09/16 VERGE GRASS CUTTING

It was noted that the grass cutting season had just started and that the cutting of areas was erratic, it was agreed to pass this information on to the appropriate Borough Officer.

ENV10/16 TREES

Members suggested that the general maintenance of trees by the Borough Council was mixed with some trees not maintained at all.

ENV11/16 LITTER

There were no issues raised.

ENV12/16 PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

i) Council Areas

The meeting was informed that the Pursell Close Open Space was suffering from cars parking on it. A suggestion was made that a planting scheme involving a low hedge should be investigated to protect the open space.

ii) Allotments

Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of providing allotments within the parish, it was noted that the Council had received requests in the past and several residents had to utilise allotments in other areas as well as placing their names on the Borough's waiting list. It was agreed to explore options with the Borough Council in the first instance.

iii) Ockwells Park Project

It was noted that Phase One of the project was complete and that planning for the next phase was to commence. It was suggested that Phase Two would encompass an expansion of the nature trail surfacing allowing wider access to more of the park. Furthermore to create small areas with seating as well as information signage. It was noted that once again this would be a partnership project with the Borough Council. It was agreed to set a budgetary allowance for the project in the region of £30,000.

ENV13/16 DOG BINS

i) Service Update: It was noted that the service was working well. It was suggested that a preliminary review of the contract would take place later in the year.

ii) New Installations: Details of the Working Party's findings were reported to the meeting. A shortlist of sites was discussed and it was agreed to install a new dog bin alongside Thrift Lane.

ENV14/16 R.B.W.M. DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS

Overhanging Vegetation

Councillor Harvey suggested that following representations by local residents at the Full Council and to Councillors, a strategic approach was required regarding the routes to the local schools. It was suggested that overhanging vegetation in some areas meant that walking in the road was the only option and that to make the routes

safer a common approach should be adopted. Members discussed the introduction of a campaign to compliment a wider safer routes to school strategy. It was suggested that a publicity campaign be undertaken in the first instance to raise awareness of the potential issues overhanging vegetation has for children walking to school. Following this campaign specific targeting of 'offending' areas could occur to ensure clear passage.

It was noted that a coordinated approach with the Borough Council would be preferable and that a meeting be sought to progress this initiative.

Members agreed that this initiative would be in conjunction with the Traffic & Pedestrian Committee work on these issues.

ENV15/16 **ITEMS DELEGATED BY FULL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

i) Committee Terms of Reference

The draft was approved as presented.

ENV16/16 **2016 GARDENS FESTIVAL**

It was agreed to hold the event as undertaken before with all Councillors judging and delivering the certificates. It was further agreed that the judging would take place in August.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

Signed as a true record of the meeting
Councillor Jones, Chairman.