

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Ms Doman, Harvey, Horner, Marshall, Payne and Walsby.

OFFICER: Stephen Hedges

ENV17/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Councillors Varrall.

ENV18/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations made.

ENV19/16 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
No items were raised.

ENV20/16 **MINUTES**
i) Wednesday 24th February 2016
 Deferred
ii) Wednesday 15th June 2016

RESOLVED: *THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2016 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.*

ENV21/16 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
Various items were updated.

ENV22/16 **PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**
It was reported that assistance would be available from the Parish Paths Initiative for producing the new walks leaflet.

Discussion about re-routing footpath 11 away from motorways following the Borough's recent purchase of additional land adjacent to Ockwells Park. It was suggested that such a re-routing would address various issues including making the route a more pleasant experience for users.

Councillor Harvey informed the meeting of issues on FP10. It was noted that discussions had taken place with landowner about surfacing improvements and signage.

ENV23/16 **VERGE GRASS CUTTING**
Members agreed that the grass cutting was being done well and that there were no major issues to report.

It was reported that reinstatement works on Highfield Lane were required following the recent utility company's presence, it was agreed to ask the Borough to chase this matter up.

ENV24/16 **TREES**

It was suggested that the Shoppenhangers Road trees may not be in the best of health and required some maintenance. Furthermore that the pyracantha required trimming.

It was highlighted that the triangle of land on Northumbria Road/Cumbria Close needed trimming due to growth overhanging the highway, it was agreed to pass the matter to the Borough Council.

Members expressed the view that the general lack of tree maintenance was an issue around the Parish.

ENV25/16

LITTER

Discussion took place regarding a current issue of litter to the front of Wessex Way shops, it was agreed to step up clearances. It was also suggested to ask the Community Wardens to patrol the area and raise awareness to help tackle the issue.

It was also suggested that discarded drinks bottles and cans at Wessex Way seemed to indicate that the No alcohol zone was not being adhered to. It was agreed to ask the PCSO's to patrol the area.

It was further agreed to consider raising awareness of these issues on the website, noticeboard and Facebook.

ENV26/16

PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

i) Refurbishment Works – Barley Mead

The meeting was informed that the appointed play area contractor had recently undergone a change of ownership and all current quotations were being reviewed. It was agreed to defer progression of the Barley Mead refurbishment until the review was completed.

ii) Pursell Close open space.

It was reported that vehicles were occasionally parking on the open space which would in turn lead to the area being damaged. It was suggested that the installation of white wooden posts along the boundary should deter this and provide protection. It was agreed that the Handyman would install them.

iii) Allotments

It was noted that the investigation into allotment provision was ongoing. Members were informed that the Council had been tentatively asked if it wished to take on the Breadcroft Lane Allotments from the Borough Council as it was used by Cox Green residents. It was agreed to explore all available options.

iv) Ockwells Park – Phase 2

It was confirmed that the Borough Council had recently purchased an area of land next to Ockwells Park in order to expand the size of the park. Councillor Harvey reported on a recent meeting with Borough Officers and Councillors. It was noted that various reports were currently being undertaken to enable a more precise strategy to be formulated. It was stated that the anticipated usage was to compliment the Park and be a Nature Reserve.

The meeting was informed that the Phase 2 project would be largely unaffected although it was suggested that minor adaptations could be incorporated to take into consideration the new land.

It was agreed to recognise the Borough Council's position for the project and support the expansion of the Ockwells Park Nature Reserve.

RESOLVED: *TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL:
"The Parish Council welcomes the Borough's commitment to the continued Parish/Borough partnership in relation to Phase 2 of the Ockwells Park Project. Furthermore the Parish Council endorses the use of the newly purchase land as a nature reserve, extending the valuable amenities and facilities of Ockwells Park."*

ENV27/16 **DOG BINS**

- i) Service Update: It was reported that the issue of a missed collection by the contractor had now been resolved and a credit issued.
- ii) New Installations: The Clerk provided a clarification of locations that were to receive a new bin as agreed by the Committee.

ENV28/16 **R.B.W.M. DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS**

Members were informed of a recent meeting with the Borough's Rights of Way Officer regarding the implementation of a coordinated approach to overhanging vegetation and its related enforcement. It was noted that new information leaflets would be produced to establish a base line for unacceptable overgrowth and the process that would be followed when dealing with such reports

It was noted that this item was also connected to the joint working with the Traffic & Pedestrian Committee's safer pedestrian routes to school item.

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

- i) Councillor Walsby – RBWM Tree planting website information
Councillor Walsby explained the background to the item following the recent RBWM planting spree of trees. It was noted that details of tree adoptions, suggestions for tree planting as well as other information could be found on the Borough's neighbourhood map system. It was suggested that it would be useful if this Council was consulted about tree planting in Cox Green to enable Councillors to answer questions from local residents.

It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to consult with this Council when planting locations are identified as the local knowledge of this Council may be useful.

ENV16/16 **2016 GARDENS FESTIVAL**

It was reported that the judging had been completed and Member's returns were being collated.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

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