

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Marshall, Payne, Walsby, Monks and O'Brien

OFFICER: Stephen Hedges

ENV30/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Councillors Ms Doman, Harvey and Horner

ENV31/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations made.

ENV32/17 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
There was one Member of the Public attending.

ENV33/17 **MINUTES**
i) Wednesday 6th September 2017

***RESOLVED:** THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.*

ENV34/17 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
It was noted that the trimming works around the Scout Hut had been partially addressed with the remainder due to be undertaken shortly.

ENV35/17 **PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**
i) Parish Paths Initiative
It was noted that the works in relation to the walks leaflet would be progressed in the next year. It was also suggested that the Ramblers Association be contacted for input.

ENV36/17 **VERGE GRASS CUTTING**
It was reported that there had been no major issues throughout the year.

ENV37/17 **TREES**
The meeting was informed that whilst some tree works had been completed, the Northumbria Road tree still needed to be dealt with, and the Office was currently speaking with the Tree Officer to progress this.

ENV38/17 **LITTER**
Discussion took place regarding cover for the Litter Warden service during holidays and sickness periods to ensure service is maintained during these times. Various options were being explored and would be reported back in due course.

Members were informed that during September there were reports from residents with regards to littering in the play area in Wessex Way, it was noted that this was an exceptional period of littering in the park however regular clearances were undertaken. It was reported that a lot of litter was blown onto the open space from behind the shopping precinct, another area suffering from problems. It was agreed to check on the arrangements for the shops.

ENV39/17 **PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES**

- i) Wessex Way
Details of quotes relating to a complete refurbishment of the play equipment were presented and explained to the meeting. It was noted that various options were investigated and the most relevant were presented for consideration. As it had been agreed to bring forward the refurbishment by a year, the works would be undertaken during the winter period.

***RESOLVED:** TO APPROVE THE REFURBISHMENT OF WESSEX WAY PLAY AREA AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO PLAYGROUND FACILITIES LTD AT A BUDGETED COST OF £42,000*

It was further agreed to publicise the works via the website and social media.

- ii) Barley Mead – Ball Games
No further information at the moment, monitoring ongoing.
- iii) Other Open Spaces
- a) Allotments
Discussion took place regarding the potential size of land required, it was noted that the Borough waiting list was many years and therefore the demand should influence the size requirement. Members were informed that land owners were being consulted as to land availability.
- b) Ockwells Park
Cllr Jones gave a report on the recent meeting of the Borough working/user group looking at the new land within Ockwells Park. It was noted that the group had touched on the following:
- Master planning for the site
 - Junior part run
 - Environment Agency contact in relation to artificial wetlands

The group had also been informed that the Parish Council was open to partner projects however none had been put forward as yet. It was therefore noted that the upcoming Committee budget did not include a budget request for a specific project.

Members expressed concerns regarding potential formal usage of the new land and discussion took place about the viability of park runs and the potential impact on the land. It was suggested that investment was needed at Ockwells Park and that a long term strategic view should be taken.

It was suggested that the overflow car park was suffering from the wet weather and could potentially become a safety risk. It was agreed to request that the overflow car park be closed for the winter on the grounds of safety.

ENV40/17 **DOG BINS**

- i) It was noted that information had been received from other parishes that were interested in a co-operative approach and was currently being collated ahead of a re-quotation request.
- ii) New Installations: No Report

ENV41/17 **R.B.W.M. DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS**

No further report.

ENV42/17 **ITEMS DELEGATED BY FULL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

i) *For information – this item had been incorrectly added to the agenda.*

ii) Ockwells Park – Public Toilets

Discussion took place regarding the irregular opening times of the public toilet within the park, it had been established that opening and closing were linked to the café and therefore restricted by its operational times. It was suggested that this was not adequate for many users.

Members were reminded that previously this task had been undertaken by the contractors opening and closing the main gates and a return to this would be beneficial to users of the park. It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to reintroduce this so that the toilet facilities were available at the same time as the park opening times

iii) Electric Charging points

Deferred to next meeting.

ENV43/17 **COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19**

Details of the outturn and budget figures were presented to the meeting and explained. Members were satisfied that all intended requirements were included and it was agreed to submit it to the Budget meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 p.m.

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