

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

OFFICER: Stephen Hedges

ENV17/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms Doman.

ENV18/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made.

ENV19/17 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No items were raised.

ENV20/17 **MINUTES**

i) Wednesday 14^h June 2017

***RESOLVED:** THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2017 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.*

ENV21/17 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Dog control orders – awaiting details.

ENV22/17 **PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**

It was reported that the Footpath leaflet overhaul had been delayed due to other priorities.

Cllr Harvey reported that the condition of footpaths was reasonable at the moment. Highfield Lane footway overgrown and vegetation impairment (report to RBWM).

ENV23/17 **VERGE GRASS CUTTING**

The meeting was informed that the recent weather has thrown schedules out resulting in grass being overgrown in places, however it was noted that crews were catching up.

Discussion took place regarding the type of cuts being done as it was suggested that it was being cut differently or that a suitable inspection regime was not in place. It was agreed to investigate the matter with the Borough Council.

ENV24/17 **TREES**

It was reported that in Farmer Way, next to Pheasants Croft, two trees have been removed. It was agreed that enquiries would be made as to why they had been removed.

Cllr Walsby reported on inaction from the Borough Council regarding a new tree which required re-staking, this was not actioned which resulted in the tree snapping. The explanation from the Borough's Tree Officers was there was too much fruit on the tree.

The following issues were highlighted for report to the Borough Council:

- dying tree on Highfield Lane, Barn Drive side (just over bridge).

- Scout Hut area needs trimming back.

ENV25/17

LITTER

Members were informed that local residents had contacted the Office regarding the litter situation in Wessex Way especially around the recycling area. It was noted that this had been raised with the Borough Council and steps were being sought to address the issue, it would therefore be monitored.

It was suggested that the area is quite often being used for drinking, and that although a No Alcohol Zone action did not appear being taken.

Members were informed that during occasions of holiday or sickness, there was inadequate cover in place for the Litter Warden. It was agreed that suitable arrangements should be investigated to ensure a minimum service is maintained.

ENV26/17

PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

i) Wessex Way

It was reported that the broken spinner in play area was due to be replaced within the next month. A contractor was being sought to undertake the fencing repairs.

ii) Cadwell Drive

The meeting was informed that an assessment of works required within the open space was required and would be undertaken soon to establish options and likely costs.

iii) Barley Mead – Ball Games

Cllr Jones explained residents had contacted him regarding the possibility of providing facilities for ball games on site. Discussion took place on the suitability and whether it could be accommodated. It was agreed to investigate informal football facilities in the area.

iv) Other Open Spaces

a) Allotments

Nothing further to report at this stage.

b) Ockwells Park

Minutes from the Ockwells Park Steering Group meeting to be circulated. The Office has asked for further updates as the Master plan had not been published yet. It was noted that concern had been expressed concerning the possible formal/sports usage of the new land.

Discussion took place on the vision and plans for the future of the site.

ENV27/17

DOG BINS

i) Service Update: It was reported that the contract review was continuing.

A suggestion of promoting a “Carry two bags” scheme, which is being run by another council, was mentioned, it was agreed to obtain further details.

ii) New Installations: No Report

ENV28/17

R.B.W.M. DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS

No further report.

ENV29/17 **ITEMS DELEGATED BY FULL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

- i) Neighbourhood Plan.
 Members were reminded to submit suggestions for consideration.

- ii) Ockwells Park – Public Toilets
 Cllr Walsby raised an issue regarding the public toilets at Ockwells Park. It was suggested that the toilets are locked when the café is closed and that there was no regularity of opening times. It was agreed to contact the Borough Council to seek clarification.

- iii) Noticeboards:-
 Farmers Way - Cllr Harvey reported that the board was starting to rot. It was suggested that it be relocated from the wall onto posts on the adjacent verge. Agreed to investigate costs.

 Cox Green Lane – It was suggested that consideration be given to moving this noticeboard, two locations were put forward – Brill Green and next to the A404(M) underpass feeder path (Cox Green Road). It was agreed to obtain costings for both options.

 Header Boards – It was noted that the noticeboards still lacked header boards, it was agreed to investigate these costs also.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

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