



EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Amenities & Estates Committee Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 June 2021
at the Village Hall

MINUTES

Councillors Present – Cllr Ross Macken (Committee Chairman), Cllr S Brown, Cllr Milly Chen, Cllr Sue Osborne and Cllr Nick Relph.

Also in Attendance – Clerk to the Council. There were two members of the public present.

21/AE15 To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Katherine Crowe, Cllr Carl Rylett and Cllr Mark Zumbuhl.

21/AE16 To receive Declarations of Interest in agenda items – None.

21/AE17 Public Participation – A resident discussed a problem with large shrubs/trees at Shakespeare Road and future maintenance of the verge. The Council will review and consider options. A query was raised about play provision at the Garden Village.

21/AE18 To receive correspondence and agree actions.

- (a) Resident – Grass cutting/wildflower meadow concerns at Dovehouse Close. Noted.
- (b) North Hinksey Parish Council – General feedback requested on Eynsham’s skate park. Cllr Macken has responded.
- (c) Resident – Wildflower meadow concerns regarding access to property boundary. Cllr Macken will visit to speak to the resident and trim overgrown vegetation.
- (d) Resident – Dovehouse Close Woodland dumping of garden waste. Cllr Relph has visited to inspect. Council is to monitor future activities and address when necessary.
- (e) Telephone call received regarding inappropriate installation of estate agent sale boards at the entrance to Hazeldene. Noted.

21/AE19 To consider an advert to co-opt members to the committee - The vacancy notice was discussed. Two versions will be used to attract additional committee members.

21/AE20 Election of Vice Chairman for 2021/22 – Item deferred to the next meeting.

21/AE21 To consider project appraisal requests and agree actions:-

- (a) Cassington Road to be added to the Nature Recovery grass verges cutting specification (ie 2 cut and collects per year). It was **RESOLVED** that the verges from the public house to the roundabout are designated as Nature Recovery verges (ie cut twice a year) whilst understanding that some residents may still choose to cut the verges. Cllr Macken and the Clerk will review sightlines at the roundabout to ensure they continue to be cut and kept clear and ensure the dog bin remains accessible. Footpath edges will be cut to ensure they are clear of overhanging vegetation. Clerk is to send letters to residents in that area advising them of the Council’s decision. Small Nature Recovery signs will be displayed for awareness purposes.
- (b) Retrospective approval to amend the Dovehouse Close Wildflower Meadow planting and consider future maintenance. It was noted that apple trees provided by the Nature Recovery Network have been planted on the southern boundary. It was **RESOLVED** that retrospective approval is provided for the existing and proposed planting and £100 is to be made available for materials. The resolution is subject to the Council clarifying the insurance position of residents wishing to undertake the work on the Council-owned land and the materials are purchased by the Council and donated to residents in order to comply with financial guidelines. Fence posts will be installed by Cllr Macken to mark a clear edge for ease of grass cutting.

- (c) Project plan for an allotment at Old Witney Road Play Area – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the project plan for the allotment to be available to Eynsham Community Primary School children and the neighbouring resident as a shared growing space (minute reference 21/72 of 23 April 2021 meeting refers). Phase 1 of the project will be undertaken in the current financial year to address infrastructure issues (ie replacing the play area boundary fence, making the area ready for planting in the next financial year (from 1 April) and making the area safe. Phase 2 will be to consider installing a mains water supply, sourcing tools/materials, obtaining grants towards the project and undertaking planting. Clerk is to write to the adjacent resident to confirm the new arrangement and clarifying the use of the shared space with immediate effect. Clerk is to check whether a refund of allotment rent is payable and make arrangements accordingly.

21/AE22 To consider quotes for bus shelter maintenance and agree actions – It was **RESOLVED** to accept Externiture’s quote of £2395 for cleaning and maintenance of the 5 bus shelters.

21/AE23 To review the committee’s project list and agree actions – It was agreed to prioritise the following projects:-

- (a) Fishponds designated Local Nature Reserve and improvement of footpaths.
- (b) Allotment at Old Witney Road Play Area.
- (c) Replacement play equipment at Dovehouse Close Play Area.
- (d) Make recommendations to the Planning Committee on Eynsham Greenbelt/A40 biodiversity net gain proposals.*
- (e) Pursue the transfer of land from Polar Technology to the Parish Council for biodiversity and recreation purposes.*

* In consideration of their size/community impact, the Eynsham Greenbelt project and land transfer will in future be considered by Full Council .

21/AE24 To receive an update on the acquisition of land to the rear of Polar Technology – Cllr Relph provided an update. Clerk is to arrange a site meeting with the company to finalise details.

21/AE25 Fishponds:-

- (a) To receive recommendations on improvements to buoyancy aids at the Fishponds and agree actions – It was **RESOLVED** to repair the dipping pond buoyancy aid housing as best as possible with the help of a volunteer and relocate the other aid to a more suitable location alongside the Chilbrook. McCracken & Son is to be asked to reinstall the aid at an agreed location while also creating a concrete slab for a cycle rack in the car park.
- (b) To consider designating the Fishponds as a Local Nature Reserve and agree actions – In consideration of the Fishponds’ value as an area for wildlife and recreation, it was **RESOLVED** to designate it as a Local Nature Reserve and commence the declaration process. The Fishponds Management Plan will start to be reviewed/updated in readiness for the implementation of a new plan in 4 years time.
- (c) To note that an invertebrate survey has commenced at the Fishponds – It was noted that 6 squares of roofing felt have been distributed at the Fishponds and surveyors will be monitoring them for invertebrates. Signs are to be installed dissuading walkers from disturbing the felt squares.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.