



## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Those present :

Chair : Cllr W Tinley

Vice-Chair : Cllr H Laws

Councillors : Cllr S Clough, Cllr J Sherman

Officers : Mrs J France, Miss H Johnson

### **ENV177 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **ENV178 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies have been received from Cllr C Lacey and Cllr J Windle.

### **ENV179 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary & Other Interests**

a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 (section 30 to 33). Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest in accordance with the LGA 1972, s117.

None received.

b) To receive, consider and record Councillors requests for dispensation (Section 13 Localism Act 2011) in connection with items on this agenda. Applications for this must be made in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

None received.

### **ENV180 Adjournment for Public Participation**

- To adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes to allow members of the public 3 minutes each to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. No resolutions can be made under public participation.

A member of the public spoke on behalf of the Killamarsh Conservation Group regarding Item 8 on the agenda, which was the Village Green tree. He said that if the council decided to fell the diseased tree it would be a good opportunity to plant further trees and shrubs and to develop the Village Green into a nice pleasant park/green space for residents. He said that the Conservation Group would be willing to work with the council on this.

Another member of the public, also from the Conservation Group mentioned the wildflower area at Linear Park where ivy is growing across the path and where there is a gap in the flower bed that needs some soil adding to it. The Chair asked if they could please send in some photographs to the office to make it clear which area they were referring to. The same member of the public asked if there was an update regarding the trees that had been felled by a resident at Rectory Gardens, which had a TPO on them. The Chair and the Deputy Clerk had both contacted NEDDC about this

back in March and someone from the planning department had replied to say they would have a look, but no further response had been received as yet.

A member of the public said that with regards to Item 8 on the agenda he is opposed to the diseased tree on the Village Green being felled, but agrees with the Conservation Group in that the area would benefit from some improvement to make it into a nicer space. He also said that the Anglian Water vehicle that had been regularly parking on the Village Green has now been moved.

**ENV181 Exclusion of the Press and Public - Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960**

- To consider and resolve any agenda items that require the exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for matters appertaining to confidential or exempt information.

**RESOLVED: That the press and public should be excluded from Item 13 due to personal information being discussed.**

**ENV182 Minutes from the previous meeting**

a) To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2023.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2023 are a true and accurate record.**

b) To receive an update on any ongoing issues not covered as an agenda item.

**Allotments**

A plot holder at Station Road has given up their allotment so there are now three available allotments (two ploholders were served notices to quit) which are being offered to the next people on the waiting list.

**Cemetery Gates automation**

This is currently in progress:

A cubicle to house the meter has been fitted - £759.95

1. National Grid have installed the cables - £2323.31
2. E-on have fitted the electricity meter – no charge for installation
3. An electrician has enabled the connection for the automated gates - £500
4. An installer has been arranged to automate the gates - £2800

**Total = £6383.26 (VAT exc.)**

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Two recent meetings (September and November) been held with Andrew Towlerton Associates who are supporting the Parish Council on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Killamarsh. The Parish Council have received a grant of £1850 in the first instance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) to support the process.

**Norwood**

We are still awaiting the outcomes of the two licence applications to DCC to install a dropped kerb at the entrance to the playground and to install a new noticeboard near to the roundabout by the Sandwich Junction.

**Speed Indicator Devices**

The SIDs will be installed on 27th November 2023.

**Tree maintenance report**

The office is currently in the process of meeting with tree companies to obtain a report and quotes for any essential tree work on Parish Council land. The local companies approached are either on the DCC Trusted Trader list or the Arboriculture Association approved contracts list.

**ENV183 Policies**

a) To consider and approve the amended KPC17 Allotment Policy

The amendment is to add a clause to state that 'decisions relating to the termination of a tenancy shall be approved at a meeting of the Environment & Climate Change Committee'

**RESOLVED: That the amended KPC17 Allotment policy is approved.**

b) To consider and approve the amended KPC7 Tree Policy

The amendment is to update clause 2.1 to state 'Killamarsh Parish Council will consider the tree policies and priorities of DCC and NEDDC with regards to tree management' and clause 7 to add 'and other appropriately qualified tree surgeons and consultants'

**RESOLVED: That the amended KPC7 Allotment policy is approved.**

**ENV184**

#### **Trees and hedges**

- To consider any action required on the diseased Horse Chestnut tree at the Village Green, after having received a report from the NEDDC Tree Officer

Cllr Cough said that although he is generally against tree removal as a whole, what is especially more apparent at Westthorpe, is we are already to lose ancient hedgerows and more trees, due to the land adjacent designated for 330 houses to be built. Unfortunately, in this case he believes the best option would be to fell the diseased tree, as detailed in option 1 of the report, as there is no guarantee that the tree will survive and thrive after a heavy pruning, and there is a chance that the disease could be spread to the other trees. This could prove costly both in the potential loss of other trees and public expenditure in the future, if further work was needed. He would like two new trees to be planted in its place. Cllr Laws disagreed and said that the report does not mention the disease spreading and he would prefer that the tree be pruned to reduce the height and spread (option 2 on the report) to give it a chance of survival. Cllr Tinley said that her preference would be option 2, although she would like to have some information on costings going forward. The Deputy Clerk said that there were two tree companies coming out the following week to look at all Parish Council trees and she would get a report and quotations from them.

Cllrs Tinley, Laws and Sherman agreed that subject to costings and further information being obtained the tree would not be felled at this time. Cllr Cough abstained.

**RESOLVED: That quotations and recommendations for pruning of the tree based on option 2 of the NEDDC tree officer's report be obtained and brought back to the Committee for approval.**

**ENV185**

#### **CCTV**

The following locations were approved in principle, subject to further advice from Derbyshire County Council:

6 x CCTV cameras:

- Sheffield Road opposite Netherthorpe Lane
- Precinct in place of the current old CCTV camera
- Sheffield Road lamppost 53722, opposite Stanley Street in place of the current camera
- Either lamppost 53424 outside Sandwich Junction OR lamppost 133045 opposite Sherwood Road
- Mansfield Road, Highmoor lamppost 53454 opposite Woodhall Road Junction OR next to the bus stop just after the Travellers Arms (lamppost 53456?)
- Uppertorpe Road facing the Nags Head - lamppost number faded.

It was also suggested that an additional camera could go on Bridge Street subject to funds being available.

4 x ANPR cameras to go at the main entrances/exits to the village on:

- Sheffield Road
- Mansfield Road
- Uppertorpe Road
- Rotherham Road

**RESOLVED: That the locations are approved in principle subject to further advice from DCC.  
RESOLVED: To obtain a quote for a further CCTV camera.**

**ENV186 Village Green**

a) To consider the legalities around preventing parking on a Village Green

The Chair read out various laws and Acts relating to use of a village green including Section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857 which states that it is an offence to *'wilfully cause damage or injury'* to a village green. Vehicles parking on the Green have caused damage to the ground surface and also have potentially damaged the roots of the trees, which may have been a contributing factor to the diseased tree on the Green. Additionally Section 29 of the Commons Act 1876 states that *'an encroachment on.....a Village Green.....or occupation of the soil thereof, which is made otherwise than with a view to the better enjoyment of such town or village green or recreation ground, shall be deemed to be a public nuisance'*

It was discussed that the costs associated with prosecuting vehicles owners, with no guarantee of a successful outcome in Court may be prohibitive and a better solution would be to put some parking deterrents in place on the Green.

The Deputy Clerk said that she had recently done another application to DCC for the installation of a kerb on the main road side of the Village Green, but DCC had replied to say they did not have funding for it this financial year. The Deputy Clerk has asked whether the Parish Council could commission the work themselves if they wanted to, using a contractor on the DCC approved list and is awaiting a response.

b) To consider the planting of shrubs on the Village Green as a parking deterrent

It was agreed that a working party would be created consisting of members of the Committee and Killamarsh Conservation Group to discuss the development of the Village Green to improve the space for residents.

**RESOLVED: For the Deputy Clerk to arrange a Village Green working party meeting.**

**ENV187 Birchlands**

- To consider and approve a recommendation to Full Council for the installation of play equipment at Birchlands Park

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council that the Tots Bus at a cost of £7,121 including installation is purchased for Birchlands Park**

**ENV188 Community bus**

- To consider and approve a recommendation to Full Council for the provision of a community bus service in Killamarsh

The Councillors discussed the report and Cllr Clough had a concern about taking residents to Crystal Peaks on the community bus, as it would be taking trade out of the village, and it had a potential to affect the current bus service, given we had to fight to save it. The Committee agreed that having a bus route on a loop serving Killamarsh and bringing residents into the centre of the village so they could access shops, coffee mornings, café's and the health centre was a better option. Cllr Tinley said that initially the bus should be on a 6 month trial basis to see what the usage was like.

**RESOLVED: To obtain a further quotation to have the bus do three loops of Killamarsh with a stop off in the centre of Killamarsh and also giving access to a bus stop where residents could travel onto Crystal Peaks if required.**

**ENV189 Grounds Maintenance**

- To consider and approve a recommendation to Full Council to use an alternative grounds maintenance company for 2024/25

The Committee discussed the report and agreed that many attempts had been made to address the resident complaints with NEDDC with regards to the insufficient grass cutting/hedge maintenance on Parish Council land. They agreed that to try and alleviate the complaints and to provide a better standard of maintenance in Killamarsh parks and the cemetery then a change is required. It was agreed to recommend to full council that option 2 is the preferred option as the company involved has extensive experience of grounds maintenance of the type the Parish Council needs. Initially a one year contract was recommended.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council option 2 for an alternative grounds maintenance company for 2024/25**

**ENV190 Items for discussion for a future agenda**

- To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda for future meetings

**ENV191 Date of the Next Council Meeting**

- 24th January 2024

The meeting closed at 8.03pm