

**LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2018, 7PM,
CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY**

Present: Councillor A Osborne (Chairman), D Gordon and H Pakenham
Mrs J Barker, Mrs M Crouch, Mr K Peak

In attendance: E Payne, Clerk
Gary and Suzanne Langridge, Strong Roots Childcare

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mortuza (family) and Cllr Quagliozi. Absent was Cllr Mahony. Cllr Pakenham substituted for Cllr Quagliozi.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gordon declared a personal, pecuniary interest in Item 7 as her partner is an allotment tenant.

Mrs Barker declared a personal, pecuniary interest in Item 7 as she is an allotment tenant.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Waste and Recycling

Members were advised that following the recommendation by this Committee, the Finance Committee had considered quotations for the introduction of recycling at the Community Centre. A new contract had been signed with the existing contractor, to undertake additional recycling including plastics, paper, tin in addition to food waste from the kitchen.

5. FOREST SCHOOL USE OF DUDLEY WOOD

5.1 Gary and Suzanne Langridge had been invited to attend and address the Committee regarding their request to use Dudley Wood as a site to hold Forest Schools for local children. Following a short presentation from Mrs & Mrs Langridge, Members asked questions about the feasibility of the project. Mr & Mrs Langridge are keen to purchase the site because of the amount of investment that would be required to start the project. Members considered that they were not in favour of selling the site but may be interested in a long-term lease for security of tenure. However, concerns were raised regarding public access of a site which is currently available for any member of the public to roam through. This would have to be further considered.

5.2 The attendance at a pre-school would be no more than 24 attendees and with a holiday club there would be no more than 30 attendees. Concerns were raised about the drop off/pick up of children by their carers and it was explained that this would be staggered.

5.3 Members enquired if there were any other Forest Schools were the land was leased to the occupier and what the fencing requirements for the site would be in order to run an educational

facility. Members were also keen to have the opinion of a professional arboriculturist regarding the condition of the trees on site. Planning advice on what would be permitted development of the site would also need to be taken (the land is currently registered as agricultural land). The Clerk will investigate these items further and report to the next meeting.

6. ACTION TRACKER

Members received the Committee's action tracker which is a way of monitoring ongoing projects and their progress. The format was approved, and it will be an agenda item in the future.

7. ALLOTMENTS

7.1 Members received an update on the current situation with allotment tenancies and any concerns about non-cultivation. Members were pleased with the lack of vacant plots and noted those plots which had been issued with non-cultivation letters.

7.2 Cllr Osborne updated Members following his meeting with some of the Shenley Lane allotment holders about security issues. He had met with the Admin Officer and Grounds and Maintenance Manager on site to view areas where people were gaining ingress/egress. He explained that some additional fencing would be purchased, and some additional hedging plants would be planted to strengthen gaps in the perimeter. This would be from existing budgets.

7.3 Members raised concerns that the regular allotment inspections had not been undertaken. The Clerk queried why a quarterly inspection was needed when grounds maintenance staff were on site regularly and were keeping the Clerk and Admin Officer informed of any issues. 6-monthly inspections by Members would be adequate and an allotment inspection would be organised as a matter of urgency.

8. FLORAL DISPLAYS

8.1 Members received a report outlining quotations for floral displays. Members considered the options of hiring fully planted containers vs purchasing planters which would then need planting and maintaining by staff.

8.2 Cllr Gordon and Mrs Barker will visit Earthworks on their open day to ascertain if they offer a plant growing service similar to the one which Dacorum BC uses (Sunnyside Rural Trust).

8.3 Members considered that in order to progress the matter, they would trial two free standing containers for Winter 2018/19 to be installed on Chester Gibbons Green. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Hire two x three tier planters to be planted with Winter bedding and installed on Chester Gibbons Green

9. DRY WEATHER

9.1 Members discussed the impact on local resources during this period of dry weather. There were concerns raised about the lack of water in the River Colne and it was noted that this was not within the responsibility of the Parish Council. Cllr Osborne will take pictures of the river in its current condition.

9.2 Members were advised that the recreation grounds are not watered except for the cricket table at Napsbury which requires water to prevent the surface from cracking which could affect the bounce of the ball.

9.3 The paddling pool's water supply is fed from a water meter and it is not known how that would be affected if there were to be a reduction in water supply.

9.20 – Mr K Peak left the meeting

10. COOPERS WOOD INFORMATION BOARD

10.1 Members were advised that the Finance Committee had approved the release of £1,000 from general reserves. The notice board is in situ and designs need to be drawn up for the map. The Clerk will progress this for the next meeting and provide designs for a new map.

11. TREE STRATEGY

11.1 Members were advised that following an informal meeting with the Chairman of the Council, quotations are being sought for contractors to undertake tree works.

12. PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

12.1 Members received proposals for dealing with planning applications. They considered that the proposals not to consider all planning applications would be a more effective use of Council resources. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that:

The proposals for dealing with Planning Applications is implemented with effect from 1 September 2018.

13. FLOOD CONSULTATION

13.1 Members commented that in the consultation document, there doesn't appear to be any mention of removable temporary barriers to prevent homes and properties from flooding which are seen employed in other flood prone areas.

13.2 The Clerk is delegated to formulate a response, to be agreed by the Chairman and then submitted.

14. LUTON AIRPORT

14.1 The Clerk is delegated to formulate a response, to be agreed by the Chairman and then submitted.

15. HCC DIVERSION ORDER

15.1 Members noted the diversion orders relating to rights of way in the parish. There were no comments.

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 24 September 2018. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairman **Date**