



LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

To: Councillors Loud, Mugele, Needham and L Winstone (Chair)

30 August 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE** to be held on **TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2023, AT 7.00PM, CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY AL2 1PU**

Emma Payne
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

	Page No
1. APOLOGIES To receive and resolve to approve apologies for absence	
2. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTIONS To receive any notifications of substitution made to the Clerk	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1 To receive declarations of interests relating to matters on the agenda and note any dispensations granted.	
3.2 To receive an application for a dispensation from Cllr Mugele regarding allotments	
4. MINUTES To approve minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2023.	
5. REPORTS TO COMMITTEES	
5.1 Grounds Maintenance Manager's Report To receive this report and note its contents.	
5.2 Allotments To receive a report on the allotments	
5.3 Kings Charles III Commemorative Bench or Tree To receive a recommendation on a location for this tree from the Grounds Maintenance Manager	
5.4 Dudley Wood Management To receive a verbal report on a proposal to thin this area by third to encourage biodiversity at the site.	
5.5 Play Area Inspections To receive a report on play area inspections and any works to be undertaken.	

- 5.6 Drainage at Allotments**
To consider the release of General Reserves for works to improve drainage at Shenley Lane Allotments
- 5.7 Drinking Fountains**
To consider installing publicly accessible drinking fountains at key Parish council sites
- 5.6 Walsingham Way Open Space**
To review the decision of this committee to develop this area into a habitat site.
- 5.7 Budget 2023-24**
To consider this committee's budget for 2023-24 including any new budget items
- 6. WORK PROGRAMME**
To note the work programme for this committee and consider any other items for future meetings
- 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
14 November 2023

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023, 7.00PM
CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY AL2 1PU**

PRESENT: Councillors L Winstone (Chairman), Loud, Mugele and Needham
Cllrs Lillico and Prowse (ex-officio)

IN ATTENDANCE: E Payne, Clerk
M Fisher, Environment & Neighbourhood Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr L Winstone was proposed for the position of Chairman of the committee. There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that:

Cllr L Winstone is elected as Chairman of the Environment & Neighbourhood Committee

2. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

3. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutions.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Mugele declared an interest in item 5.2 as an allotment holder. He has applied for a dispensation which will be considered at the Council meeting on 28th June 2023.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

6. REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

6.1 Grounds Maintenance Manager's Report

Members received a report from the Grounds Maintenance Manager. Members noted that it was a busy time of year with the changeover between football/cricket and the opening of the Watersplash.

Members commented about the levels of rubbish on the village green after the weekend. The Manager of the Green Dragon tries to maintain levels of cleanliness and litter picks the area. Patrons of the pub are only supplied with plastic glasses if they are drinking outside. It is not only customers of the pub who use the area. Members asked the Clerk to investigate additional bins at the site for the summer period and ask the pub to cover the cost of the additional bins. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report.

6.2 Allotments

a) Allotment Holders Meeting 28 March 2023

Members received the notes from this meeting and the contents were noted.

b) Allotment Inspections

Members were asked to nominate someone from the Committee to accompany Officers on an annual inspection. It was **RESOLVED** that:

Cllrs Winstone and Needham will accompany the Admin Officer to undertake allotment inspections.

c) Allotment Policy

Members received a proposed allotment policy for the management of the allotment sites, which would sit alongside the tenancy agreement. Members discussed in which condition the plots should be let and it was agreed that they would be let as seen, without any rent holiday. A discussion was held about organic plots, and it was agreed that it would be difficult to enforce.

A debate was held about what constituted cultivation and that wild gardening should be encouraged. Members were advised that there was a clause in the tenancy agreement that 75% cultivation level should be maintained, and they considered that provided that cultivation level was reached, if the remaining 25% had wildflowers or other pollinators, then this would be acceptable.

Members discussed the feasibility of introducing community gardens, with raised beds which could be rented out to residents, possibly at Walsingham Way. Members were recommended to visit the community garden at Sandridge Parish Council near the community centre in Marshalswick which is looked after by residents in the surrounding area. Members asked how the allotment sites were secured and were advised that Shenley Lane is locked, and Glebe is open.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that:

The Allotment Policy is adopted.

6.3 King Charles III Commemorative Bench or Tree

Members considered the purchase of a commemorative tree or bench to observe the coronation of Kings Charles III. Members considered that the King would prefer the planting of a tree and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Plant a commemorative tree to celebrate the coronation of Kings Charles III at a site to be determined at a later date.

6.4 Public Space Protection Order

Members received a report on investigating a public space protection order at the parish council operated land at Napsbury. Members considered that it was a matter of education to inform residents about dog fouling on sports pitches. Members considered the report, including the enforcement and it was **RESOLVED** that:

A Public Space Protection Order would not be pursued for parish council controlled land at Napsbury.

6.5 Request for Metal Detecting

Members received a request from a member of the public to undertake metal detecting on parish council owned land. Members considered the request and that there were very few sites under the Council's control where this activity could be undertaken. The Council sites are in the developed area of London Colney, and it may be better to ask permission of local farmers with less developed land. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Not permit metal detecting on parish council owned/controlled sites.

6.6 Walsingham Way Open Space

Members received a report on the development of Walsingham Way as a habitat site. Officers had met with Countryside Management Services (CMS) who advise on the development of sites to increase biodiversity and improve community involvement. CMS had produced the plan which was attached to the report. Members welcomed the initiative and discussed how best to engage with stakeholders on the project including sponsorship and engagement with St Bernadette's School. It could also include the local hedgehog rescue centre.

Members were advised that the Council does not currently have any additional resources in house to undertake the project and it would be dependent on input from the community. If this support is not forthcoming then the project would not progress. A further report would come to the meeting in November 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) ***The committee supports the development of Walsingham Way into a habitat site to increase the Council's biodiversity.***
- b) ***A community engagement activity is held to ascertain from residents if there is sufficient support for this project before proceeding with further plans.***

6.7 Sustainable Purchasing and Procurement Policy

Members considered this policy. Members were advised on the current scheme to increase recycling, based at the community centre. The contents of the policy were noted, and a discussion was held on the sustainability of the Council's vehicles, which is the subject of a report to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 20th June as one of them has come to the end of its life and is currently off the road. Members considered hybrid versus fully electric and this will be included in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to F&GP that:

A hybrid or electric vehicle is considered when replacing Council's vehicles.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that:

The Sustainable Purchasing and Procurement Policy is adopted.

6.8 Rights of Way Project

Members received a verbal update from Cllrs Winstone and Loud on this project. There has been slow progress to date and more evidence is required to support any permissive path applications. Members considered how best to increase engagement with this project and an article in the next magazine would be included. Members will take part in an engagement event at the Picnic in the Park event on 13 August 2023.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

Members received this Committee's work programme, and its contents were noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 September 2023.

The meeting closed at 2020.

Signed

Date