



DRAFT MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 8th March 2021, 8.00pm
Held remotely on Zoom

Present: Mr. Hoare, Mr. O’Hanlon, Mr O’Loughlin, Ms Poole, Mr. Thawley and Mr. Young (Chair)
Ex-Officio: Mr. Truesdale
Bucks Cllr: Mrs. Brandis and Mr. Foster
Clerk: Ms. Gilbert
Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Marsden
Assistant Clerk: Ms. Griffiths
Members of public: 5

E21 60 APOLOGIES

Longstanding apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Wheeler.

E21 61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The were no requests to participate.

E21 62 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2021 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

E21 63 REPORT ON MAINTENANCE OF ASSETS AND AMENITIES

- (i) A report on the maintenance of the village assets and amenities was received.
- (ii) It was AGREED to support the Playing Field Management Committee by funding the cost of annual pitch maintenance at Woodways of £2,500.
- (iii) It was AGREED to adopt a policy of updating street light lanterns to LED when the lamp fails to speed up the LED conversion process.

E21 64 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

- (i) A report on Innovation Partnerships from Aspire Community Works was received. Concerns were raised that this would not be appropriate for a grounds maintenance contract and is more suited to a situation where specialist skill are difficult to find. Further investigation is needed.
- (ii) It was AGREED to delegate to Mr Truesdale, Mr Young and the Clerk to decide whether an innovation partnership would be a preferable alternative to a new grounds maintenance contract.

E21 65 PLAY AREAS

The Woodways playground survey closed on 14th February 2021. 200 responses were received.

Some of the key points to note from the survey include:

- Woodways is a well-used playground with the largest proportion of respondents using the playing 2-3 times a week.
- The playground is currently used mainly by under 10s.
- There is a desire for the playground to accommodate all ages. Parents of younger and older children alike would like to see more equipment aimed at those respective age groups.
- Older children would use the playground more if there were more suitable equipment and would like to see the basketball area improved.
- There is a desire for more fun/imaginative equipment.
- People would like to see a central fort-style piece of equipment.

Feedback from the survey has been incorporated in the specification within the tender document. The tender documents were uploaded to contract finder, find a tender and our website last week.

E21 66 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROJECT

Exeter University and the Centre for Sustainable Energy has created a Parish Council Carbon Footprint Tool which has allowed us to view a breakdown of emissions for Haddenham.

The feasibility of an electric car club within Haddenham is currently being looked into. Zero-Carbon Haddenham has been promoting an online survey looking at the interest of Haddenham residents in being part of such a club. Around 80% of 76 respondents were interested in the idea. Thame Green Living has been approached about the possibility of jointly setting up a scheme, as they are also interested in an electric car club.

E21 67 TREE PLANTING

Releaf carried out a survey of homes adjoining the green areas at Sheerstock regarding tree planting proposals in those areas. It proposed to plant some additional trees at the area of Sheerstock facing Thame Road, where there are a few gaps in the existing trees. No responses were received. Feedback from residents has been incorporated into an updated proposal for tree planting further down Sheerstock, by the blue house and in the square in front of number 60. Feedback from proposals for tree planting at Sheerstock Recreation Area has been also been taken on board. The proposals for tree planting by the railway line within the Recreation Area were positively received.

It was AGREED to proceed with the final proposals from reLeaf for tree planting on Parish Council owned land at Sheerstock.

E21 68 ACTIVE TRAVEL

- (i) It was AGREED to support the slow ways scheme <https://slowways.uk/>
- (ii) Buckinghamshire Council held a meeting on 10th February to review the Emergency Active Travel Cycleway on Thame Road / Fort End, attended by Mr Thawley and the Clerk. Buckinghamshire Council is writing to residents to advise the scheme has been extended for 6 months and explaining the reasons.

E21 69 LITTER PICKING

It was AGREED to support local litter picking initiatives by providing equipment and assisting with the disposal of any rubbish collected.

E21 70 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021 were noted. Wood chippings have been laid along the path through the orchard which has become very muddy due to increased use during lockdown combined with recent wet weather.

E21 71 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The allotments committee is meeting next week. Eviction notices have been issued to 2 plot holders due to non-payment. There are currently a large number of people on the waiting list for a plot, which will be reviewed at the meeting.

E21 72 SNAKEMOOR

Visitors have been throwing sticks and rubbish into the pond, which makes it difficult to clean and maintain. Signs are being posted to ask visitors to please avoid doing this. Wood chipping has been delivered for laying on the paths as they are very muddy at present.

E21 73 CLERK'S REPORT

The Parish Council has been told that its application to the Community Board, for match funding for parking restrictions, divided the members with no clear decision made. In the meantime, the Parish Council has been made aware that funding of £30,000 has been included in the S106 agreement for Land West of Churchway to address the problem of parking near to the station. We are trying to confirm whether this applies to the Thame Road/Sheerstock/Wykeham Way area. If the scheme will be funded through developer contributions, then the application to the Community Board could be withdrawn. Parking on the roads during lockdown has significantly reduced so the delay in the project until S106 funding would be made available could be acceptable.

E21 74 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Thames Valley Police has circulated a newsletter with an update on Community Speed Watch. Mr Foster has confirmed that the smaller waste vehicle is being used on Stockwell, however, the verges are still badly damaged. Mr Foster will investigate further and report back.

E21 75 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is currently scheduled for 7th June 2021. An additional meeting may be needed at an earlier date in order to approve the choice of contractor for the Woodways playground refurbishment. Meeting dates may also be affected by whether the government extends legislation permitting remote meetings, as the legislation is currently due to expire on 7th May 2021.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.

Signed: _____ Draft _____
Chair

Date: 7th June 2021