



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.15pm in the Parish Office at Helsby Community Sports Club on Monday 20th February 2023

Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill (Chairman)

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Margaret Marsh

Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Participation – No matters were brought to the Committee's attention.
2. Apologies were noted from Cllrs. Branigan and Duffy.
3. Declarations of Members' Interests. None were reported.
4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 14th December 2022 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – **E01/23**.
5. Matters arising. Under Item 5, it was noted that the defibrillator for the telephone kiosk on Chester Road opposite Bates Lane would be installed shortly and that stickers had been placed on the outside of the phone box in preparation. It was noted that no further progress had been made on a potential arts project despite S106 funds remaining. Cllr. Ellams suggested that a tree or sandstone carving might be explored.
6. The Environment Committee budget for 2022/23 and the agreed budget for 2023/24 was noted as follows (all figures are exclusive of VAT):

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2022/23 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/23 £	Agreed Business Plan 2023/24 £
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	505	845	500
219	Village Clock	300	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	1000	0	500	200
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	204	204	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	0	200
225	Ho Ho Traffic M'ment	1050	1050	1050	1100

226	Road Safety	5000	0	0	5000
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	641	1000	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	11442	14000	15500
222	Christmas Tree	3000	2500	2500	2700
229	Sherwood Court Land	1000	1303	1303	500
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	8500	5977	5977	6000
231	War Memorial	0	0	0	0

The following was noted:

- i) Code 218 – to add costs for bedding plants for 2022 at £340.
- ii) Code 220 –Any tree maintenance work to be taken from general maintenance budget (Code 213).
- iii) Code 228 – electricity costs to add for Christmas 2022 (£681 in 2021) if invoice arrives before end March. Potentially some funds required for tree wrap work (see Item 7.1).
- iv) Code 229 – An additional £10,000 set aside under earmarked reserves for any future landscaping work. Any tree maintenance to be taken from general maintenance budget (Code 213).
- v) Code 230 - Possible additional new planters and noticeboard for South Ward in 2023.

7. Miscellaneous matters

- 7.1. Members noted a report from the Clerk outlining the poor state of some of the Christmas lights on various trees around the village and potential options for their replacement. It was noted that the council's lighting engineer had advised that the cost and time involved in repairing and maintaining all 12 sets of lights might be prohibitive for the council. The Clerk outlined that as these lights were permanently on the trees, they had a relatively short shelf life and if left in situ, could damage the trees themselves over time. It was therefore **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council for AMR Technical to remove all lights on 7 trees where lights were failing or had totally failed at a cost of £2,025 – E02/23**. It was agreed that this would be an extension to the current lighting contract with AMR Technical (as tendered for in 2022) and alternative quotes would therefore not be required. The Clerk agreed to source a quote from AMR Technical to fully restore lights on the 5 remaining trees and to look for alternatives such as lit baubles and icicles and present these for consideration at a future meeting. It was suggested that the tree at the station car park (Priestner Drive) could be used as a pilot for a new display during the 2023 festive season (Clerk to check ownership of the tree wraps on this tree). The Clerk agreed to contact Ho Ho Helsby to seek their views and establish ownership details of tree lighting before the March Full Council meeting.
- 7.2. King's Coronation - It was noted that Ho Ho Helsby were making plans for an event to celebrate the Coronation in May. The Clerk outlined that she had been approached in relation to the provision of some lighting for the event. Cllr. Marsh proposed that the Council purchased some bookmarks and agreed to produce a fully costed proposal for the Full Council meeting in March.

- 7.3. Community noticeboard in South Ward - It was noted that Tesco had agreed for the Council to have some space on their community noticeboard within the store. It was agreed that further details would be sought from Cllr. Stothard at March's Full Council meeting.
 - 7.4. New planters - The Clerk outlined that she had been approached by CW&C in relation to applying for funds through their Neighbourhood Pride scheme. It was noted that the remaining budget available was £3,925 and funds needed to be paid before the start of the purdah period from mid-March. Given the very short deadline to apply, it was **RESOLVED to apply to CW&C's Neighbourhood Pride scheme for the full amount of £3,925 for 6 new planters and some tree work that was agreed to at the last Full Council meeting – E03/23.** The Clerk agreed to obtain an up-to-date quote for the planters and to immediately submit the application to CW&C.
 - 7.5. Climate change - Cllr. O'Neill outlined that town and parish councils had been asked about ways in which they were addressing climate change and circulated a report from ChALC in this respect. Ideas noted included installing solar panels, holding a Green Fair, introducing community orchards and the declaration of a 'climate emergency'. Cllr. O'Neill proposed a separate working group to look at this issue and agreed to raise this at Full Council. It was agreed that the best time to introduce this would be following the elections in May.
 - 7.6. Village awards - Whilst some monies had been set aside for a village awards scheme in 2023, it was noted that the Council were lacking sufficient volunteers to take this initiative forward. It was therefore **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council not to hold a village awards scheme in 2023 – E04/23.**
 - 7.7. Sherwood Court landscaping - Cllr. O'Neill agreed to work with the Clerk to bring some quotes to the next meeting.
 - 7.8. Sherwood Court car park – it was noted that some legal advice had been received and there could be potential to grant a licence to any residents wishing to park there. The Clerk agreed to put a more detailed report together and to contact CW&C as landowner for their advice.
8. No relevant liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports were noted.
9. Urgent matters – Cllr. O'Neill presented some suggestions as raised in the recent community questionnaire for consideration by the Environment Committee. Some actions were agreed for consideration at future meetings, including a potential map plaque on Helsby Hill, Calisthenics gym equipment and a memorial for Queen Elizabeth II. It also was noted that the Clerk had received a quote from Caloo for servicing the outdoor gym area. It was agreed to raise this at March's Full Council meeting.
10. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman's signature Dated.....