



Stone

Town Council

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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18 October 2023

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023 at 7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Councillors: R. Townsend (Chairman), T. Kelt (Vice Chairman), J. Battrick, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, J. Metters, J. Powell and N. Powell

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations Received.**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held on 15 August 2023, Minute No's ENV24/012 – ENV24/020 (attached)

5. **Environment Sub-Committee Works Update**

To receive an update on the work being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor (update attached) and to consider any variations required.

6. **Asbestos Policy**

To receive an update from the Town Clerk.

7. **Reports of Working Groups**

- Environmental Working Group

8. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

9. **Confidential Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the confidential minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee, held on 15 August 2023, Minute Numbers ENV24/012 and ENV24/020 (attached).

Will any Councillors who wish to speak at this meeting, but are not members of the Sub-Committee, please inform the Chairman before the start of the meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Environment Sub-Committee Meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of this scheme are displayed on the Town Council's notice boards and website.

The Council Chamber is accessed from the rear of the building.

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 15 August 2023

PRESENT: Councillor R. Townsend in the Chair and
Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, R. Kenney,
J. Metters, J. Powell and N. Powell

Officers: L. Trigg and T. Williams

By Chairman's Invitation: J. Hood

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess

ENV24/012 Apologies

Councillors: A. Burgess

ENV24/013 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received.

ENV24/014 Representations from Members of the Public

None

ENV24/015 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 20 June 2023 (Minute Numbers ENV24/001 – ENV24/011), were approved as a correct record.

ENV24/016 Environmental Sub-Committee Works Update

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Works Update consisted of the non-contractual projects that the Grounds Maintenance Contractor was currently working on.

The Chairman gave updates on the following items:

Reflective Orchard

The Chairman referred the Sub-Committee to the Reflective Orchard on Crown Meadow for which the brass plaques (which had recently been received from the supplier) were ready for installation. These were circulated at the meeting for Councillors to see.

The Chairman confirmed the Sub-Committee was now ready to consider an Opening Ceremony and invited ideas on the arrangements.

The Sub-Committee suggested:

- The Mayor and the Mayor's Chaplain be involved in the occasion with the Mayor's Chaplain leading prayers and a blessing for the orchard during the Ceremony.
- That invitees include representatives from the communities involved in the pandemic such as NHS/health authority representatives, care home staff and residents and Stone Covid-19 Helpline staff.
- The Opening take place by mid-October.

The Sub-Committee explored the possibility of aligning the Orchard Opening with a date or time that was key during the pandemic such as the Thursday evening nationwide clap at 8:00pm to thank NHS staff, although 8:00pm was considered too late in the evening in October.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the arrangements for the Reflective Orchard Opening be put together by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and the Town Mayor.

Asbestos Removal

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the arrangements for removing asbestos at the allotment site required a proposal from a contractor on what should be removed and the best method of removing it.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that removing the asbestos could be considered a riskier exercise than leaving it undisturbed but there needed to be a slow and steady programme for its removal over a period of several years.

The actions needed to replace the asbestos, which in some areas supported the soil, required consideration and the Chairman said that progress would be attempted in this area.

ENV24/017 Crown Meadow Volunteer Group

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Crown Meadow Volunteer Group had been formed with four volunteers but the first meeting at Crown Meadow on August 11th had to be postponed because the Grounds Maintenance Contractor recommended the willow sapling removal be delayed as Scrape One was too much in flower due to a late flowering season. The work has been put back by a month and will probably coincide with grass cutting in scrape One in the autumn which is being done to promote new growth and improve biodiversity within the scrape.

ENV24/018 Reports of Working Groups

Environmental Working Group

The Chairman invited Councillor Kelt to address the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Kelt provided an update on a meeting of the Stafford Climate Panel, at which Councillor Tony Pearce, Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change, had also been present.

There were several interesting discussions including the setting up of a community forum which would be initiated by the Borough Council but involve the Climate Panel and possibly parish councils.

Councillor Kelt said there was an interesting meeting of a group called Green Conversations Transformed - Trent Valley, which involved a brainstorming session on how to bring together various areas and specific projects. They are waiting for the results of those discussions.

There is a climate expo and sustainability conference coming up which Councillor Kelt was planning to attend and was open to everyone.

ENV24/019 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

RESOLVED: To exclude the Press and Public from the next item of business.

ENV24/020 Allotment Competition

The Sub-Committee considered a replacement Allotment Competition judge following notice that Mr Martin Robinson, after thirty years of dedicated service, was standing down from the role.

RECOMMENDED: That the Chairman meets prospective Allotment Judge candidates and reports to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Chairman

Stone Town Council - Environment Report - Work in Progress

Dept	Job Description	Details	Current Status	Approved Budget	Est Date
Allotments	Asbestos Removal	Remove and dispose of asbestos. Repair allotment borders	Asbestos survey confirmed issues as low risk and require monitoring. Arrange to have pile removed from plot 2A by MP and use specialist to dispose. Raised borders on plot 13 to be dug out and replaced with sleepers as budget allows	2000	Nov - Jan
Crown Meadow	Open Remembrance Orchard	Install bench and plaques	Plaques received. Mick to collect and affix to bench and podium. Open event 10/10/23. Completed	0	Oct-23
Crown Meadow	Bridge Cleaning and painting		MP to complete, ideally in time for Westbridge Park re- opening	525	Oct - Dec 23
Crown Meadow	Scrape 1	Cut back grasses to encourage new growth and diversity. Cut back a third of the area on a three year rotation. Strim and remove.	Bill Waller recommends Sep 2023 for the first third to be cut. Discuss and agree method with Mick.	1000	TBC
Crown Meadow	Scrape 1	Additional funding for willow sapling removal	Work planned with volunteer group	500	Nov-23
Grounds Maint	Walton Roundabout - re-planting		Weather dependent	600	Oct - Mar
Grounds Maint	Town Borders - re-planting		Weather dependent	600	Oct - Mar
Grounds Maint	Re-install Lock Gate	Replace damage lock gate on Walton Roundabout	Canals Trust to source lockgate	400	TBC
Environmental Initiatives	New hedgerow	Eastern part of meadow to Angler's Car Park	Plant in Winter 2023. Approaching CPRE for support from their Hedge Heroes campaign. Meeting with Project Manager to be agreed	1400	TBC
Environmental Initiatives	Balance of Carry Over			1350	