

## FERNDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Natural Environment Committee** held on Monday 14 October 2019 at 7.00pm in the Conference Room, Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown.

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### ATTENDANCE LIST

Councillors: J L Baxter, S Drinkall, P Hanson Graham (Chairman), A Miller,  
L Wilson.

Officer: Mrs Tina Dudley – Committee Clerk Miss Susan Denton – Notetaker

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#### **199 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Willis due to family illness and Cllr Worth who was on holiday.

#### **200 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **201 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **202 Minutes**

Following consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 August 2019, it was PROPOSED by Cllr Wilson, SECONDED by Cllr Baxter and unanimously-

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the Natural Environment Committee of 12 August 2019.

#### **203 Harmont Wood**

Members noted that the wood is within the jurisdiction of KGV. Following a walk around the wood with Cllr Hanson Graham, Mrs Leslie Haskins had provided advice regarding maintenance work to be carried out.

#### **Sculptures, Bird Boxes and Signage**

Members requested that the Clerk asks the Head Groundsman at KGV to clean the sculptures, bird boxes and signage. He should also be asked to repair two bird boxes which have holes in them, using metal plates as before.

#### **Pond**

Members were advised that the pond needs clearing over the forthcoming years. Cllrs Hanson Graham and Wilson agreed to make a start this Autumn by clearing the Willow around the edges in the north east section. It was noted that the pond

has a liner so care will be needed. The hedges to the south west of the pond needed cutting down to approximately one metre to allow more light into the pond but this job can take place by KGV staff at a later date.

## **Trees**

Mrs Haskins' recommendation was to remove the none native trees; Amelanchia's and two American Alders. She has offered to drill kill the larger Amelanchia's and the rest can be felled. In addition, ten pine trees require felling and after Members have identified these, quotes will be obtained for this work. Cllr Hanson Graham will ask Mrs Haskins for recommendations for a tree cutter and arrange an on-site meeting to obtain a quote.

## **Dog Signs**

The Clerk will order 10 hard-backed dog signs from Dorset Council

It was Proposed by Cllr Hanson Graham, Seconded by Cllr Drinkall and unanimously-

**Resolved** that Mrs Haskins be allowed to arrange for the drill killing of the larger Amelanchia's and that quotes be obtained for the felling of ten pine trees when Members have identified them and suitable quoted received.

## **204 Dog waste bins**

Members were advised that the dog bins in the town require emptying and sanitizing. KGV staff should be asked to attend to two bins; one situated at each entrance to Harmont Wood. Dorset Waste Partnership will be approached regarding the other bins in the town, including one at Humber Road/Ford Lane.

## **205 Bat Boxes**

Members agreed that two Schwegler bat boxes be purchased.

## **206 Coppins Close, Christchurch Road, Longham**

Members where advised that Dorset highways had caused unnecessary and reckless damage to the long hedgerow situated at the front of the Coppins housing estate, Christchurch Road Longham. This hedge forms part of the Coppins Estate. The hedge provided screening from noise, visual intrusion and pollution. Members agreed that the damage to the hedge had caused huge inconvenience to the residents of the Coppins Estate.

It was Proposed by Cllr Hanson Graham, Seconded by Cllr Baxter and-

Resolved that the Clerk emails Dorset Highways requesting that they supply enough hedgerow saplings to the Coppins Estate landscape manager to rectify the damage done.

## **207 Woodland Trust**

Members asked the Clerk to order two packs of saplings; 1 x Wild Harvest pack and 1 x Wild Wood pack. It was noted that the packs were free of charge, Members

requested that the order is placed as soon as possible ready for planting early in the Spring, a March delivery was requested.

## **208 Wildflower Planting**

Cllr Hanson Graham had met with a Dorset Council Ranger and had received a quote for the provision of wildflower seeds and three days planting at a cost of £1055.70 excluding VAT. Members suggested locations including Ham Lane (if suitable), verges near Lake Farm Close, Longham, Ringwood Road at Longham and the verges around Tricketts Cross roundabout. Work would be carried out in the Spring and exact locations would be determined at a future meeting of the Committee. It was considered that any revision of the plans could result in a lesser cost, the Chairman would further discuss the planting with the Dorset Council Countryside Officers for detailed schedules and location confirmation.

As the remaining budget was only sufficient for this work, it was agreed to postpone the earlier request to order two Schwegler bird boxes.

## **209 Boundary of KGV Pavilion**

Members considered approaching Ferndown Leisure Centre to seek approval to use part of the running track for ecological purposes. It was noted that the land is leased to Ferndown Leisure Centre by Dorset Council. It was Proposed by Cllr Baxter, Seconded by Cllr Drinkall and unanimously-

**Resolved** that Cllrs Hanson Graham and Wilson arrange and attend a meeting with the Leisure Centre to discuss using part of the running track for ecological purposes.

## **210 Budget Report**

Members considered the Budget Report. The Clerk advised that £500 for the Ferndown Forest and Stour Trail was ringfenced for signage.

## **211 Ferndown Forest and Stour Trail**

Cllr Cordery had advised the Clerk that two-thirds of the trail had been cleared and that he is seeking volunteers to clear the remaining third. Cllrs Baxter, Drinkall, Miller and Wilson may be available to assist. Other members will be canvassed, as will Dorset Rangers who have been helpful in the past. It was noted that to avoid any impact to nesting birds and infringement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and breaching European Habitats Directive 1992 (Nesting Birds Directive), no clearing should take place between 1 March and 31 August. This was to minimise disturbance to breeding birds including ground breeding birds.

## **212 Longham Lakes**

Members considered a list of suggestions provided by Cllr Willis.

i) Provision of little owl boxes - Cllr Willis should be asked about the proposed location.

ii) Provision of reptile mats with signs encouraging the lifting of these - Members noted the advice from Dorset Wildlife Trust, and other environmental groups, is that reptile mats should never be lifted.

iii) Hedgehog boxes – Members considered that hedgehogs have their own habitats and do not require boxes.

iv) Bug hotels - Members advised there is insufficient budget at the present time, but this could be considered during the next financial year.

v) Wildlife cameras - Members advised there is insufficient budget.

### **213 Dorset Council Tree Applications & Decisions**

Members noted tree applications and decisions but were mindful that some decisions had already been made by the time this Committee had met. The Clerk advised that only tree applications that were still active would be considered at future meetings of this Committee.

### **214 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received.

### **215 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 18 November at 7.00pm in the Conference Room, Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman