

FERNDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Natural Environment Committee** held on Monday 2 December 2019 at 7.00pm in the Conference Room, Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Councillors: J L Baxter, S Drinkall, P Hanson Graham, M Willis

Officer: Miss Susan Denton, Notetaker/Clerk

283 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miller, Wilson and Worth.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved that apologies for absence be accepted.

284 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

285 Public Participation

There were 16 members of the public present.

286 Minutes of the last meeting

Following consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2019 it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Natural Environment Committee held on 14 October 2019.

287 Actions from the Previous Meeting

203 Harmont Wood

The Head Groundsman will present a report regarding the items raised at the next meeting of the KGV Management Committee meeting on 20 January 2020.

204 Dog Waste Bins

A response is awaited from Dorset Waste Partnership in respect of cleaning their dog bins in the town.

206 Coppins Close

Dorset Council Highways Authority have advised that there was some ambiguity initially as to the location of the boundary and therefore whose vegetation was

causing the problem. In order to make responsibilities clearer in the future, Dorset Council had flailed the hedge back but due to lack of regular maintenance it was necessary to cut back beyond the annual growth, acknowledging that initially this can look brutal. They further advised that the management company raised the issue of accessing the hedge due to the Dorset Council owned verge being overgrown and their team has carried out works to remedy this. The team at DC were aware of potential sightline difficulties and will respond as quickly as priorities allow if an enquiry is received.

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had spoken to the Coppins Management Committee and had provided them with reassurance that the Council would provide saplings from those ordered from the Woodland Trust.

In addition he advised the committee that he had spoken to Will Holland who had provided him with an assurance that highways will supply several specimens for planting at Coppins as an apology for the inconvenience suffered by the damage to the hedgerow.

207 Woodland Trust

The order for saplings has been confirmed and delivery is awaited.

211 Ferndown Forest and Stour Trail

This budget has now been moved to the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee.

288 Protection of Wildlife

16 members of the public were present specifically for this item; therefore, the Chairman agreed to bring this Agenda item forward.

Concern was raised by members of the public present with regard to the protection of the wildlife on the land.

Members considered the sectioning off of an area of the town's woodland in order to protect endangered species. The Chairman advised that there was a dominant badger sett on the land in question. He further advised that fencing around the boundary would cost approximately £200-£300, this would stop further erosion taking place and if approved funding would be provided for out of the 2020/21 budget.

There was support from members of the public present for signage.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved that fencing be erected around the woodland to protect the endangered species present, funded from the 2020/21 budget.

289 Representation on Plastic Free Ferndown

Members discussed representation on Plastic Free Ferndown.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved that Council be recommended to appoint a second Member of the Council to Plastic Free Ferndown and that Member will be the Cllr Hanson Graham.

290 Review of land at KGV for future Wildlife Projects

Members of the Natural Environment Committee were mindful that KGV charity fields should be an area where flora and fauna could be enjoyed, as well as the excellent recreational use it currently offers. Members were keen to provide recommendations to KGV Management Committee in respect of potential wildlife projects.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved that a site visit be arranged for Members of the Natural Environment Committee to KGV charity fields in January 2020.

291 Wildflower Planting

Members reviewed the previously approved sites and expenditure for wildflower planting. The seeds would be supplied by Dorset Council with that team carrying out all labour.

Cllr Willis advised that residents of Lake Farm Close do not wish to have any planting due to visibility issues when exiting the close.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved to utilise £1210.00 from the Natural Environment budget for the provision and planting of wildflower seeds on the following sites:

Ham Lane	Low growing mix 1800 square metres rotovate and seed (no spray required)	£495.00
A348 Central Reservation	2m wide central strip between lampposts 1000 square metres. Spray, rotovate and reseed	£550.00
Tricketts Cross roundabout	2 verges either side of Wimborne Rd exit. 300 square metres. Spray, rotovate and reseed.	£165.00
	Total	£1210.00

292 Representation with Outside Organisations

It was agreed that this should instead be 'Liaison with Outside Organisations'.

Members discussed the appointment of Members to liaise with outside organisations with regard to matters within the remit of the Natural Environment Committee

It was Proposed and Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved that Cllr Hanson Graham would liaise with Dorset Council on matters within the remit of the Natural Environment Committee. Cllr Willis would liaise with the South Lakes Trust and Cllr Wilson with the Dorset Wildlife Trust on matters within the remit of the Natural Environment Committee.

293 Natural Environment Committee Budget 2020/2021

Members considered the draft budget for the next financial year 2020/2021.

It was agreed to join the Badger Trust as associate members at a cost of £50.00.

A Member felt that the current budget was insufficient to cover all issues contained within the Terms of Reference, particularly as the Terms of Reference had increased this year to include issues such as climate change and green initiatives within the town.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously-

Resolved to recommend to Full Council a budget of £5000.00 for the Natural Environment Committee for 2020/2021.

294 Natural Environment Committee Terms of Reference

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference, however there were no amendments for recommendation to Full Council.

295 Dorset Council Tree Applications/Decisions

Members noted tree applications.

Tree Application 3/19/2242/TTPO

Members were concerned that a felled Scots Pine would be replaced by a Silver Birch and considered that a more sustainable British species such as Yew, Chestnut or Ash would be more appropriate. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Dorset Council Tree Officer advising her of the Committee's concerns.

296 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

297 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Natural Environment Committee was scheduled for 24 February 2020 at the Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman