

FERNDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Natural Environment Committee** held on Monday 24 February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Conference Room, Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown.

ATTENDANCE LIST

P Hanson Graham (Chairman)
Cllr M Willis (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: J L Baxter, A Miller, L Wilson and H Worth

Officer: Tina Dudley, Acting Town Clerk

405 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

406 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

407 Public Participation

There were 12 members of the public present.

408 Minutes of the last meeting

Following consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 December 2020 it was Proposed by Cllr Worth, Seconded by Cllr Miller and unanimously-

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Natural Environment Committee held on 2 December 2020.

409 Budget Review

The Chairman explained the rationale behind the budget setting for the upcoming municipal year. He explained that the bat boxes would help to keep the balance of bats in the wild especially as new builds were destroying some of the wildlife and nesting habitats. The planting of wildflowers would enhance the natural environment and attract insects and bees that would promote biodiversity. The proposed mapping would help to monitor and plot the location of local wildlife and signage would raise the community's awareness.

410 Land at KGV Update

The Clerk informed the meeting that an update had not been provided to date.

Members have not assessed the suitability of KGV land to create a natural environment area (woodland, wildflowers, coppicing. etc) to contribute towards offsetting the climate emergency.

411 Wildflower Planting

The Chairman informed the Committee that the planned schedule for planting the Wildflower seeds had been hampered by the recent inclement weather.

412 Woodland Trust

The Clerk had been notified that the saplings ordered from the Woodland Trust would be delivered between the 28 February 2020 and 13 March 2020. Various sites were considered for the planting including the Stour and Avon Trail, Holmwood, Coppins and King George V Playing Fields. It was suggested that Ferndown Middle School be approached so that pupils are involved with the planting.

413 Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace – Holmwood

The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the SANG at Holmwood had now been transferred to Dorset Council, she suggested that Officers at Dorset Council be approached so that the Committee may be linked in to the future plans for the site, it was considered to be unfortunate that the Council had not already been considered or engaged with to date.

Members agreed that the Dorset Rangers would be invited to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Committee and also an invitation would be sent to Dorset Wildlife Trust so that partnership working and engagement with the Committee could be advanced.

414 Ancient Trees in Ferndown

The Chairman suggested that Members familiarise themselves with the Woodland Trust guidance notes on how to measure and record ancient trees. It was noted that a single Oak tree supports 800 species of insects. Further information could be found on the Ancient Tree Forum.co.uk.

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record/recording-guide/how-to-record-a-quick-guide/>

415 Location of Wildlife Boxes

The Chairman explained that the two remaining Little Owl boxes had been allocated. There remained 5 Swift and 3 Swallow nesting boxes; he considered that modern homes were not compatible with the birds building a natural habitat as the plastic eaves did not allow for the nesting material to stick to the surface of the eaves. Members were also informed of the need to locate the swift nesting boxes a number of meters above ground level.

416 Dorset Council Tree Planting and Climate Emergency Policy

The Policy was noted and welcomed by the Committee.

417 Dorset Council Tree Applications

With regard to application 3/20/0122 Members objected to this application stating that it was a valuable elderly tree that provided a habitat for wildlife. In line with the Dorset Council Tree Planting Policy it was considered that, and alternative could be

to put a tree route root barrier around the roots to protect the water pipes. The removal of the tree was considered to be inappropriate. It was noted that the water company had not logged any concerns on the application.

Application 3/20/0015, Members requested that assurance be sought that the replanting plans be followed up and demonstrated, Members also requested a plan or map be made available before the approval of the application.

418 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

419 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Natural Environment Committee was scheduled for 30 March 2020 at the Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman