**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 5 March 2024**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Minutes**

**Attendees: Cllr M Getgood, Cllr C Elsmore, Cllr S Cox, Sarah Cheese**

**Laura-Jade Schroeder (Town Clerk)**

**Nick Adams, Mark Bevan, Ian Pritchard**

1. **Apologies were received from Cllr Lusty**
2. **There were no interests declared in items on the agenda**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **There were no members of the public present**
5. **The minutes of 9 January 24 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

**Cllr. Getgood signed, as a true, and accurate record**

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 9 January 24**

Re: Climate Adaptation Plan – to be received this week. Suggestion to look at Biodiversity policy and then LNAP at a later date. Full Council will review this at the end of the month

Re: Tree Policy is now adopted

Re: Cllr Getgood has got a free open water butt at the cemetery now

1. **Guest Speaker**

**Ian Pritchard (Mowtech) –** Trees planted at Angel Vale – no problem with trees being planted, but it is the location. Too near paths will bring paths up. Change to contract takes time. Wildflowers appearing in cemetery – takes 5 years to establish. Pathway mown through the wild area. Water hangs there at Foxglove Way – takes more time strimming instead of mowing. Could look at ways to relieve this. Drainage towards railway line – could be because of clay underneath, there’s nothing running into drains. Cllrs Getgood, Elsmore and S Cox will go on site to investigate.

**18:48 IP left the meeting**

1. **To receive update on Climate Adaptation Plan, and make recommendations as necessary**

Cllr Getgood updated that this would be received this week from FODDC – draft has already been received.

1. **To consider start a refill scheme, and make recommendations as necessary**

Cllr Getgood updated re: the scheme. Window stickers will be displayed. Cost would really only be stickers.

**Recommendation: Cllr Getgood to speak to Marcus tomorrow and feedback following the report. Office to send around information to traders to find out if they would be willing to participate**

1. **To review Cemetery matters, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Trees bordering school in NBG may need to be trimmed.

**Recommendation: NA will look at the trees bordering school, and quote as necessary**

**Recommendation: NA to look at trees along edge of neighbouring field where recent tree fall occurred, and quote for significant trimming down, also looking at a 5 year plan and phasing of works**

**Recommendation: Corex signs to indicate which materials for which bin (3ft x 2ft approx) – office to seek quotes**

Sign shop in Ross suggested.

Wobbly rusty iron around a grave in corner. Topple testing – from 1st May – put a sign up to inform public.

Longer seasons, play it by ear with when to ask Monmouthshire CC to do cut on NBG and wild area.

1. **To review Bells Field Recreation Ground Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Water fountain in phone box - needs to be revived

Spring Equinox on 23rd March – apple tree arriving 19th March. Hole to be dug prior by Cllr Getgood and Sarah Cheese.

**Recommendation: To buy more wildflower seeds to distribute this year – Cllr Getgood to send a quote**

NA discussed suggestion for copse on mound behind basketball court. NA to look into whether we could qualify for English woodland creation grant scheme. Gives different habitat. Possibility of trees that would be better suited for warmer climate.

**Recommendation: Explore installation of a hedges and small copse (Miyawaki forest - Scrub layer, mid layer, canopy) across parish, including funding**

Woodland creation funding possibly covers hedges too. Fill gaps at top-side hedge at Bells – application to cover parish-wide – Rock Lane

Water is not running off field into Pond – land is saturated. One swale is filled with water. Issue may not be the liner.

**Recommendation Explore reasons why water is not being retained. Go back to initial contractor Shaun Hancox to see what he thinks is the problem.**

Hedge behind MUGA – path is being created by children jumping the hedge to get the ball.

**Recommendation: Make a proper access point through hedge, and put proper surface through of tarmac, or gravel**

**Recommendation: Restock shrub areas – NA to quote**

Stretch of clawed up grass – could be birds. NA will continue to rake and reseed.

1. **To review KGV Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Ash has dieback. Need to commission audit

**Recommendation: Check owner and contact to look at Hazel overhanging**

1. **To review smaller green areas, and to make recommendations as necessary**

Hedging along Rock Lane/Angel Vale to become part of hedging application.

1. **To receive update on complaints received, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Nothing to update

1. **To receive update on Parish Tree activity, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Ask Richard Webb who trees next to 1-16 Old Station Way belong to – they need work.

Tree overhanging play area in Foxglove way – needs trimming, another tree choked with ivy – NA and MG to investigate. Ivy could be removed by volunteers.

1. **To receive update on Volunteer actions, and to make further recommendations, as necessary**

MG took 3 people out on Sunday and planted whips in Angus Buchanan bordering cemetery.

1. **To receive updates on other Parish Issues with Environment implications, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Find out what trees are available to plant by FODDC bins.

1. **To receive updates re: wider FoD Environment meetings, forums, activities, and other environmental groups; to take forward actions into Plan, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Aurora meeting in Sling. MG signed up to have a thermal imaging camera to find out cold and hot spots. Also applied to Severn and Wye agency to retrofit and make cold spots warmer.

Aurora still looking for roof space. Looking at Five Acres.

Climate network cancelled this month.

1. **To receive update on Environment Committee expenditure, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Nothing new.

1. **To receive update on Environment Tracker, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Defer.

**Meeting end: 20:03pm**