**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 7 May 2024**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Minutes**

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

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

1. **No apologies were given**
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 5 March 24 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

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

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 5 March 24**

Re: Foxglove Way water drainage – Cllrs Getgood, Cox and Elsmore – this hasn’t been investigated yet

Re: Aurora are getting estimates for solar panels on Pyart Court

1. **Guest Speaker (none available)**
2. **To receive update on Climate Adaptation Plan, and make recommendations as necessary**

Cllr Getgood updated and it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: Cllr Getgood to get window stickers indicating traders involved in water refill scheme**

Cllr Getgood is plugged in to the national heat alert emails. CTC will inform people via website, social media, etc, when a heat alert is issued. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To explore the cost of a digital temperature display at CTC and update resilience plan with actions for extreme heat**

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

After some discussion, it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To have simple large signs (A2 in size) above the cemetery bins**

Cllr Getgood will measure the space to know how big to make the signs.

The Town Clerk updated that a tree audit was carried out on 1st May. We are awaiting the report.

Cllr Getgood suggested for the office to Laminate and put Caring for God’s Acre signs up.

Further clean up of the corner where the limb fell is required – working party to clean up?

Monmouthshire CC to do further cut and collect this year.

Topple testing will continue this year.

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

Apple tree is in bloom that was planted at the equinox.

Pond has very little water in it. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To progress the pond with a new liner and seek further quotes**

Tree damage – photo from Cllr Getgood – Contractor to take off breakage.

Dog penalty sign is out of date. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To update the sign**

Cllr Getgood showed a picture of the seat with engraved centre. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To progress the centrepiece of the seat**

Re: Plaques, it was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To replace the missing plaque with something more robust and improve the existing one**

It was proposed and agreed (1 abstained):

**Recommendation: To ask Bells contractor for cost to cut and collect and removal off site of longer grass, dock and ragwort in wildlife in mid July, possibly later depending on how season goes**

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

Cllr Getgood updated on her experience on walking the site. There is still a lot of litter. It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To seek cost for removing a tyre**

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

The Town Clerk updated re: the hedge at Sylvan Close and said this would be on the agenda again this month in F&AM.

Trees at Lawdley Road are thriving. Still some opposition from residents.

Potential green space near Coleford Baptist Church car park. Cllr Elsmore to find out who owns the land and if they are prepared to clear it.

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

Nothing further that we are aware of.

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

Old Station Way trees have been pollarded.

Tree at Parkend Walk has been earmarked by FE to come down within the next month. Cllr Getgood is waiting for info from FE. Asked that it doesn’t come all the way down. Still has ecological value as a trunk.

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

One cemetery working party so far. We don’t have a volunteer group for Coleford – they tend to be pulled from Worcester Walk.

Coleford Grows may be willing to volunteer. Cllr Getgood to ask.

Annual Assembly is an opportunity to recruit further volunteers.

Scouts will be based at Kenzley Shed. They may be able to help.

FVAF and Youth Association are hoping to get a youth volunteering scheme set up in the Forest. Going into schools, talking to parents and children to get motivation and get groups together. FVAF to manage, not the schools. It will be part of the school day. Hoping to be up and running for next half term. FS to keep MG and CTC updated.

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

None

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**

Cllrs Getgood and Elsmore went to the Climathon. Structured research with how to come up with ideas to put into practice. Trying to get groups together to deal with things. It was more networking.

FOD Climate Action Partnership (FODCAP) – this is rejuvenating itself – led by FODDC.

6 inches of soil – Cllr Getgood updated re: learnings. Dividing farms into smaller segments with more hedgerows. Top 6 inches of soil are most important.

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

New financial year now, so nothing spent so far.

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

Review again once things have settled.

**Meeting end: 19:39pm**