**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 6 June 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr C Elsmore, Cllr M Parker, Fliss Simister & Laura-Jade Schroeder**

1. **To re-elect the Chair**

Cllr Getgood was proposed and it was unanimously agreed that she should remain as the Chair

1. **Role and remit of this committee to remain as is for the time being**
2. **Apologies received from Stuart Cox and Sarah Cheese**
3. **There were no declarations of interest**
4. **There were no dispensations requests**
5. **There were no members of the public present**
6. **To approve the minutes of 2 May 23**

**The minutes of 2 May 23 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

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

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 2 May 23**

Re: bus shelter – chase GCC for response on grass rooftop bus shelter for Coalway.

Re: David Cox, Monmouthshire County Council – does he know he will also be cutting the Natural Burial Ground?

Re: signage – Contractor has put signs up re: wild areas

Re: shrinking pond at Bells Field – get spec from Cllr Penny before next meeting re: lining of pond – investigation required

Re: trees at Angel Vale – can’t action anything yet – wait for planting season

1. **To hear from Guest Speakers Dede and Jackie**

Jackie updated re: pesticide use at Mitcheldean and this has moved to hand weeding. Might be useful to link our contractors with Mitcheldean when contracts are renewed to discuss. It required 1 extra member of staff, but pesticides and insurance and equipment was also expensive. Benefit as it provides additional employment. It moved from 20 hours to 30 hours (50% extra). Environment committee could identify which areas could be suitable for this approach in the mean time until current contracts expire. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation: The Environment committee will identify areas we can leave pesticide free prior to current contracts expiring.**

Dede updated re: light pollution and this affecting insect death, and preventing breeding, stop finding food, more susceptible to being eaten, stops mating, eggs from developing. They are tuned into daylight hours. Campaign for Protection of Rural England – 10 points regarding light pollution. Not good for insects, other mammals, and people. Easily fixable – we can take action with immediate effect. Cllr Parker enquired regarding LED lighting. Blue LED lighting is not good – use filters – change bulbs – shields, motion activated lights, dimmers. Cllr Parker discussed the need for blue lighting in town centres – how can we find a middle ground? Dede will help find information to share. Environment Act 2021 authorities must comply to plans to help biodiversity – lighting wasn’t on this, but it is so important. Fliss Simister remarked on lighting at driving range opposite Forest Hills Golf Club. Cllr Parker said we require more information on light spectrums for town centres. We can then look to progress this then. France have already enacted nationwide plans around light pollution and the UK is falling behind on this.

1. **To consider CTC Green Charter, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

The existing Environmental Policy was reviewed and, subject to some minimal wording changes, was agreed that this policy should be adopted for the current year. There will potentially be a need to review the contracts in place with maintenance team when this is due.

**Recommendation: Cllr Parker to investigate list of frequent suppliers provided by office for their green credentials**

**Recommendation: For motion activated light to be considered for Bells Field – by F&AM**

**Recommendation: Discuss possibility of recyclable wrapping for flowers with local florists to minimise plastic wrapping – and other traders more generally**

**Recommendation: Discuss with Co-op re: providing soft plastic bin at Cemetery**

**Recommendation: Discuss peat-free compost with contractors**

1. **To consider Dean Forest Beekeepers request, and make recommendations as necessary**

No known suitable land, but happy to meet with Beekeepers to discuss further.

**Recommendation: Contact Beekeepers to discuss walk around and meet with councillors to discuss.**

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

The request for a memorial bench in the Natural Burial Ground was raised and the committee liked the proposal, however, given the existing policy around memorial benches, it needs consideration by the wider council.

**Recommendation: Agree placement of a bench in principle, subject to resident paying for the bench and installation. Check whether we can change the type of bench with Full Council and find out who is responsible for ongoing maintenance.**

Cllr Getgood updated that there will be another Cemetery work party in a few months.

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

Picnic bench installation will be on Friday 9th June.

We need a noticeboard – such as the one seen at Winchcombe – chase supplier again for cost to send to F&AM.

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

**Recommendation: users of the KGV field who have containers maintain them and ensure they are looking presentable.**

Progress further tarmac quotes, and improving ramp access. Application to Barnwood for money.

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

Angel Vale resident will be responded to when Town Clerk returns to work. Visit site in the Autumn to see how we can mitigate.

1. **Update on Parish Tree activity, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Trees in Towns project are not happening now. GCC Highways have trees that we can put somewhere – needs to be on verges. Possibly one at the bottom of Bakers Hill.

Rain harvester was vandalised at Bells Field. Contractor is looking at drain pipes for this. Once full, we can water trees from here.

1. **Update on Volunteer actions, and to make further recommendations, as necessary**

Nothing to update.

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

Nothing to update.

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

Cllr Getgood to be the representative to link with FODDC – Climate emergency project

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

Nothing for this month.

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

Will take this once it has been updated.

**Meeting ended 8:26pm**