**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 5 September 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr C Elsmore, Stuart Cox, Fliss Simister, Sarah Cheese & Laura-Jade Schroeder**

1. **There were no apologies received**
2. **There were no declarations of interest**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **There were no members of the public present**
5. **To approve the minutes of 6 June 23**

**The minutes of 6 June 23 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

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

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 6 June 23**

Re: bus shelter at Coalway

**Recommendation: To remove the current bus shelter and replace with a new one with a living roof – GCC to cover groundworks and installation costs, CTC to cover the new shelter cost and the Environment Committee to cover the difference of approximately £1k to upgrade the roof to a living roof, subject to F&AM committee approval.**

**Recommendation: Explore aftercare of the living roof**

Re: shrinking pond at Bells Field

**Recommendation: Subject to F&AM approval, seek further quotes for replacement pond lining. There may be grants available, perhaps from the Environment Agency.**

Pesticide and herbicide free areas:

**Recommendation: To leave the Cemetery and Bells Field pesticide and herbicide free areas. Link with contractors on this.**

Re: CTC Green Charter – office to ensure they bear this in mind when placing orders

Re: Recyclable wrapping for flowers – Cllr Getgood to speak to local florists

Re: Discussion with Co-op around providing a soft plastic recycling bin at the Cemetery – office to follow up

Re: Beekeepers – they have found an alternative venue now

1. **There were no Guest Speakers**
2. **To review Cemetery matters, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Due to growth of grass this season, further cut and collect will be required.

**Recommendation: Ask Monmouthshire County Council to carry out another cut and mulch of wild area and NBG**

If requests come in to donate a memorial tree instead of a memorial bench, we could consider this in the future if this situation arises.

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

Wilding areas need another cut and collect, put arisings in a pile in the wildlife area at the edge

Pump track hedge to be removed completely, no replacement.

Willow tree stake has been moved by someone – contractors will fix, asking that nobody touches it as it was secured too tightly to the tree and would choke the tree

Watering of fruit trees is needed – they are looking in need

Pond is being looked at by F&AM

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

Further volunteer working parties in the future, but Cemetery and Bells are more in need at the moment.

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

Taking into account next agenda item also, complaints have been received about the Copper Beech trees in the Cemetery behind Victoria Road houses. Arborist has been out and confirmed they are healthy. Town Clerk updated resident that we are mindful of public money and this is not a high priority task for contractors to undertake at the moment.

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

Linked to above, resident at Angel Vale has asked for cut back of overhanging trees.

Ash dieback tree replanting request form was submitted. Awaiting feedback from GCC.

**Recommendation: Office to circulate tree policy.**

We need to know what we are responsible for – linked to tree audit.

**Recommendation: Cllr S Cox to map all trees in the parish so that a tree audit can be commissioned to manage tree priorities.**

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

Coleford Cemetery 17th September 9:30am. If contractor at Bells hasn’t dealt with bamboo by October, then volunteer group will tackle this at that session.

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

Committee agrees with raising awareness of Recycle Week (16-22 October), but not with spending extra to light up the Clock Tower green, as this doesn’t feel very environmentally friendly. Ask wrap.org for alternative ways to raise awareness.

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

Some other car washes use collected rainwater and recycled water.

**Recommendation: Ask Cllr Kyne to enquire with Car wash in Coleford as to whether they can look at doing this too**

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

Cut and collect costs once completed, and £1k committed to living roof on bus shelter

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

Deferred until the tracker has been updated.

**Meeting ended 8:02pm**