**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 4 October 2022**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, Sarah Cheese and Assistant Clerk/RFO Laura-Jade Schroeder**

**Minutes**

1. **To note apologies**

Fliss Herniman and Cllr H Lusty

1. **There were no interests declared**
2. **There were no dispensations requests**
3. **To take comments from the Public Forum**
4. **The minutes of 6 September 2022 were unavailable**
5. **No matters arising from the minutes of 6 September 22 as not available**
6. **To review Cemetery issues, and to make any necessary recommendations**

Topple testing is ongoing.

We need a new tree map – TrunkArb carried out a tree safety audit within the last few years – this should have a map – we can then update this.

In the wildlife area at the cemetery, contractor needs to collect arisings from the path, cut the long grass and coppice Hawthorns at the lychgate as they are damaging the roof, leylandii need trimming on the side and top.

Volunteer group going to the cemetery on 16th October.

Contractor meeting with Town Clerk this month.

Cllr Getgood to investigate options for removing graffiti – isopropyl alcohol? Office to check with contractor as to what is used throughout the town.

Office to liaise with contractor re: black benches in cemetery and wood in the NBG which need some attention.

1. **To review Bells Field issues, and to make any necessary recommendations**

The kissing gate is in and the path has been extended.

The need for a shelter for youths to congregate was raised.

Toilets will be re-opening soon – still awaiting parts to fix, and awaiting full council approval to re-open due to ongoing vandalism around the town.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendations:**

1. **To seek a quote from the identified contractor to source and install a picnic table with disability access, using the funding received for disability improvements across our sites.**
2. **To relabel the dog bins**
3. **To source a water butt, to be purchased using Environment budgeted spend**
4. **Sarah Cheese to link up with planters for 2 days of work at £200 per day**

Cllr Getgood to check date/time that trees are collectable and chase invoice for trees.

1. **To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan Tasks**

This was deferred until the next meeting

1. **Update on Tree Activity across the Parish**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To replace the trees at Lawdley Road that were cut down.**

Cllr Getgood to check varieties.

Trees for Coalway Road and near Lidl are waiting on GCC Highways to progress.

Office to chase Stuart Payne and Alistair Chapman re: Trees in Towns.

Cllr S Cox to check the saplings have survived.

1. **To further consider CTC’s position re: Cannop Ponds further, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed to:

**Recommendation: await the meeting with Forestry England and revisit CTC’s position after this meeting.**

1. **To review Coleford Town Council’s existing position Re: Fracking, and to make recommendations as necessary.**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To maintain CTC’s original position – we are against fracking in our parish.**

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

Volunteer group will be working at the cemetery on 16th October.

FVAF and the website have brought forward a few volunteers, so there is some interest in helping.

1. **Updates on other Parish Issues, including engaging with Angel Vale residents, with Environment implications, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr Getgood to email Angel Vale resident to re-engage with children at Angel Vale.

1. **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 Cox attended an AONB meeting, which was very worthwhile.

Cllr Elsmore suggested engaging with the Neighbourhood Watch to broaden our pool of volunteers to help with other environmental issues.

Office to check with Police where the watches are.

An email was circulated re: equipment used by Monmouthshire Meadows – members to digest and bring thoughts to next meeting.

**Meeting ended at 7:40pm**

**All Council Meetings are Open to the Public**

**Coleford Town Council Working for You**