**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 1 November 2022**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, and Sarah Cheese**

**Minutes**

**Note: In the absence of Cllr. Getgood, Chair, it was proposed,**

**and unanimously agreed, for Cllr. M Cox to temporarily Chair this meeting**

1. **To note apologies from Cllr. Getgood, and Fliss Simister,**
2. **There were no interests declared**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **There were no members of the public present.**
5. **The minutes of 6 September were unavailable**
6. **No matters arising from the minutes of 6 September 22, as not available**

**Item: 11: Cannop Ponds** The FoDDC position to recommend keeping Cannop Ponds as they are, recognising repair is required. It was also noted that CTC are still seeking a meeting with Forestry England, to inform their position, and also that Coleford Area Partnership have scheduled a meeting also.

1. **To Review the Committee’s Role & Remit, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Following a recommendation from Full Council, for this Committee to revisit its Role & Remit and, after further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that:

**Recommendation**

1. **the Role & Remit of this Committee is updated to include second statement: ‘*to develop and encourage initiatives to environmentally enhance the Parish of Coleford’***
2. **To consider correspondence re: Angel Vale Hedge Boundary issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Town Clerk updated, following correspondence, and a meeting with Angel Vale (Lawdley Road) resident re: overgrowing brambles on CTC land, impinging on her property; and Cllr. Elsmore also reported on his site visit, stating that the ‘overhanging’ brambles were, what was understood, on CTC land; and therefore had responsibility. After further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that:

**Recommendations:**

1. **a quotation is obtained to assess brambles, subject to confirmation re: land ownership, and to remove, as necessary.**
2. **Cllr. Elsmore would also seek an update from FoDDC, Enforcement re: environmental vandalism, in the neighbouring property, on Lawdley Road**
3. **To review Cemetery Visit Report, and to make recommendations re: Environmental Cemetery Improvement Plan**

Cllr. Getgood had summarised Cemetery issues (sent in advance), following a Site Visit with Town Clerk, and Contractor, reporting on a range of issues and, after further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that:

**Recommendations:**

1. **Contractor is requested to undertake a further cut, in Wild Grass areas, and removal of risings is considered more widely, across the Parish, with specialist advice being sought**
2. **Signage is progressed re: explanation of Wild Grass activity, to further explain this activity**

**Note: It was also reported that another Volunteer Day is scheduled, at the Cemetery, following the success of the inaugural day**

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

It was noted that a Site Visit is scheduled with Contractors, and Members of Council, to be reported upon further at next Committee meeting

1. **To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan Tasks, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. S Cox led discussion on most up to date Plan, as a consolidation exercise, and its progress was noted; with recognition to consider more fully, at next Committee meeting, with Chair, and other Members present.

1. **To consider the use of pesticides, and a Council Ban on their usage, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood had reported on other Councils having implemented a ban on pesticides /

herbicides and, recognising implications for Contractors, after some discussion, it was

proposed, and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendations:**

1. **for Cllr. Elsmore to establish what the policy of FoDDC is re: Contractors use of pesticides, and herbicides, and to report back to this Committee**
2. **for CTC to work towards this ban, ‘benchmarking’ other Councils activity, and position, seeking to at least reduce usage, and eventual ban**
3. **To consider ‘Bee Squared’ initiative, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood had reported on a Climate and Biodiversity Zoom meeting that she had attended, including a talk on the ‘Bee Squared’ initiative, which is an idea that could be progressed, by CTC, next year, which involved buying some wild flower seed and encouraging parishioners to identify a 1m square of their garden, in which to sow this free seed, with front gardens best due to project visibility, but could also be done in large flower pots etc. There would be some associated posters, similar to the Monmouth scheme; with the overall aim to create pollinator

Corridors; as it was noted that there are 16 key species in the UK already regionally extinct. After further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that

**Recommendation:**

1. **This Initiative is noted, and to be considered further for next year.**
2. **To consider Litter issues, across the Parish (inc. Lidl walkways), and to make recommendations, as necessary**

An update was noted, in that FoDDC have been more active with local LIDL management, with some improvement, and activity, and for CTC to continue pressing FoDDC on this issue.

1. **Update on Tree Activity across the Parish, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Tree activity was discussed, across the Parish, and the Tree Audit, undertaken by Trunk Arb was also noted, also recognising there were still trees to be planted, from the Woodland Trust stock and, after further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

1. **this Tree Audit should be revisited, and updated, as necessary; with recommendations following, as to what was still needing to be progressed, and considered**
2. **Stuart Payne, Tree Officer, FoDDC, should be further consulted also, re: TPOs**

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

Recent Volunteer activity was noted and, after further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

1. **that more Volunteer activity should be encouraged, and promoted through CTC Social Media platforms**
2. **To consider budget for next year, and make recommendations, as necessary**

The Town Clerk sought for this Committee to consider its Budget requirements for this Committee, noting its current delegated allocation of £10,000 and, after some discussion, it was proposed that:

**Recommendation:**

1. **a small group of members scheduled a meeting to consider Budget allocation further, with estimated costings accordingly**

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

Cllr. S Cox reported on the FoD Environment Group that still met, and will report back further following subsequent meetings

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

There were no updates to report

**Meeting ended at 8.29pm**