

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michaels Suite, Frank Jordan Centre on Tuesday 16 October 2018

PRESENT: Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and
Councillors: R. Kenney, Mrs K. Green, Mrs J. Piggott, J. Davies, Mrs M. Goodall
and M. Shaw

By Chairman's invitation: M. Green, I. Fordham, Mrs J. Hood, G. Neagus and
M. Williamson

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs E. Mowatt

ENV19/001 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs E. Mowatt

ENV19/002 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

ENV19/003 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

ENV19/004 **Work on the Scrapes**

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Chairman on his visit to Crown Meadow accompanied by an expert on fauna and flora. They had noted that the perimeter of one of the scrapes (the one nearest the river) was overgrown, concealing from view the numerous wild flowers that grow within it.

RECOMMENDED: That the Grounds Maintenance contractor is asked to clear the overgrown vegetation from the perimeter of the scrapes (nearest the river).

ENV19/005 **Leaflet on the Meadow**

The Sub-Committee considered commissioning a leaflet detailing the native plants species and wild flowers that grow on Crown Meadow for the use of visitors. It was acknowledged that there is an information board on the site but a leaflet would enable people to carry the information around while they explore and to identify the flowers. The leaflets would be made available in the library and Town Council offices.

RECOMMENDED: That the costs of producing an information leaflet be investigated by Councillor Leason, and the findings reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

ENV19/006 Plastic Free Community Initiative

The Sub-Committee considered the benefits of supporting a journey towards achieving Plastic Free Community status in Stone.

The Town Council would be required to:

- Pass a resolution supporting the initiative
- Lead by example to remove single use plastic items from their premises
- Encourage plastic free initiatives, promote the campaign and support events
- Appoint a representative to the Plastic Free Community steering group

A copy of an email from Tracey Lindop, who made a representation to the Town Council's meeting on 4 September 2018, had been attached to the agenda.

A copy of the Surfers Against Sewage Community Toolkit had also been attached to the electronic version of this agenda.

RECOMMENDED: That a working group be set up to consider the Plastic Free Community Initiative and to report its findings to a future Sub-Committee. The members of the group would include Councillors: J. Davies, P. Leason and R. Kenney.

ENV19/007 Tree and Hedge Planting

The Sub-Committee considered an invitation from CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Staffordshire as supporters of the 'Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees' campaign.

An email from CPRE Staffordshire, and electronic links to additional information had been included with the agenda.

The Sub-Committee suggested that Crown Meadow would be a suitable location to benefit from the tree planting and the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor and the Biodiversity Officer (at Stafford Borough Council) should both be consulted for advice.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged that the permission of the landowner would need to be sought for any other suitable sites not owned or managed by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED: That Councillors R. Kenney and P. Leason, in consultation with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, consider the best location within Crown Meadow for the planting of trees. The most suitable package available through the Charter for Trees campaign would also be considered and findings reported back to the Sub-Committee.

Town Mayor