

# Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 15 October 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and  
Councillors: T. Adamson, K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Green, M. Hatton, T. Kelt,  
R. Kenney, J. Powell and R. Townsend

By Chairman's invitation: Councillor I. Fordham & A. Best

**ABSENT:** There were no Councillors absent

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**ENV20/018** **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**ENV20/019** **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

**ENV20/020** **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

**ENV20/021** **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers ENV20/009 – ENV20/017), be approved as a correct record.

**ENV20/022** **Updates**

To consider updates on matters from previous Minutes:

a) **Leaflet on the Meadow**

**Minute Number ENV19/005 & ENV19/018:**

*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*

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that at a meeting (on 25 September 2019) between the Borough Council's Biodiversity & Ecology Officer, the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor and Sub Committee Members, it had been suggested that installation of several

information boards positioned around Crown Meadow, would be preferable to the production of leaflets.

It was agreed that, upon receipt of costings for the information boards, the item would be added to a future agenda.

b) Community Planting Exercise

**Minute Number ENV19/012 & ENV19/018:**

*That a community planting exercise is considered for the planting of new wild flowers on Crown Meadow*

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that following the meeting (above) the Grounds maintenance Contractor had been asked to provide quotations for various works which included:

- Removal of a Beech tree, an Oak tree and the levelling an area of ground near to a culvert which runs underground.
- The planting of Rowan, Elder and Crab Apple trees to form a hedge along the area of Meadow adjoining Stafford Street to create a screen to hide the Marks and Spencer building and entrance road on to the site.
- Making the bottom scrape wider and deeper to attract dragon flies etc.
- Removal of bulrushes.

The Chairman advised that upon the opening up of the scrape, a community planting exercise could be undertaken with consideration given to the creation of another new long narrow scrape.

The Chairman advised that he had arranged another meeting with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor on 22 October (10am at Crown Meadow) and Sub-Committee members were invited to attend.

c) Tree & Hedge Planting – Charter for Trees Campaign

**Minute Number ENV19/013 & ENV19/018:**

*That the location identified in Crown Meadow is recommended for tree planting and that this is undertaken through a community tree planting project*

The Chairman advised that the tree and hedge planting would form part of the screening (as above) and the costings for all work would be taken forward to the December budget meeting.

The Chairman suggested that a Crown Meadow volunteer group be

established to undertake litter picking, removal of weeds (Himalayan Balsam) and straightforward maintenance work, taking the lead from the Sub-Committee and Grounds Maintenance Contractor. It was agreed that the item be brought forward to a future agenda.

RESOLVED: To note the updates on matters brought forward from previous Minutes.

**ENV20/023 Reports from Working Groups**

To receive reports from Working Groups:

**Plastic Free Community/Single Use Plastics Working Group**

Councillor Townsend advised the Sub-Committee that the Plastic Free Community/Single Use Plastics Working Group had not yet met.

**Environmental Issues Working Group**

Councillor Townsend advised the Sub-Committee that a small number of Environmental Issues Working Group Members had met for the first time last week, since the Town Council had agreed to acknowledge a climate emergency.

The issues discussed had included the need to focus on the aspects of climate emergency and environmental issues that were within the remit and budget determined by the Town Council.

The working group agreed that it would research three main areas, with a view to making proposals to the Sub-Committee. These are:

- Establishing how to organise a carbon energy audit of Stone Town Council's activities to obtain an up to date evaluation of its footprint and environmental practices. This will enable consideration to be given to offsetting its footprint and leading by example in the town.
- That the Sub-Committee have meetings with Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council to learn about their plans, declarations and policies in order to establish how these can be filtered down to the local level.
- Community engagement in Stone with the use of social media, presence at farmers markets, the Town Council's website, face to face and the possibility of a public meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the reports of the Working Groups.

**Chairman**