



HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee Meeting
Monday 13th July 2020

Waveney Local Office
London Road
Halesworth

Present: Cllr Jill Reece (in the Chair), Cllr David Thomas, Cllr David Wollweber, Linda Gray, Lisa Simmonds.

In Attendance: Three members of the public, Phillippa Welby (Assistant Clerk)

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies** – received from Cllrs Allen and Chadwick, Gabrielle Maughan and Martin Dominic.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None received
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** – Minutes from the meeting of the 8th June 2020 were agreed.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes** – Cllr Reece is still waiting for the updated traffic report.
- 5. Chair's Report**

Cllr Reece has laminated the photos of the heritage trees for the Green Wall in the Council offices. The wall will contain all relevant information about green spaces in Halesworth. She will present the idea to full Council at the next meeting.

She asked Linda Gray and Lisa Simmonds to look at the area behind the goalposts on the Swan Lane play area. It's currently not being utilised and has the potential to be a pleasant green space.

Cllr Reece also thanked Linda for putting a notice on the Orchid at the cemetery entrance in order to alert Norse when they cut the grass.
- 6. River Update** – Cllr Thomas had circulated his river report based on the findings of the engineer. He proposed that a working group be formed consisting Cllrs Chadwick, Thomas and Reece to look at the flow of the river and how it could be improved. All in favour. Lisa Simmonds raised the Water Vole conservation issue and Cllr Thomas agreed to consult Suffolk Wildlife Trust. When the river had been surveyed by the group, the Environment Agency would be approached.
- 7. Energy Projects Update** – Cllr Thomas reminded the group that EDF had applied for a development consent order from the Planning Inspectorate. There is a window for comments until the 8th September. Cllr Thomas will be recommending that the Town Council make a submission at the next full Council meeting.
- 8. Tree Wardens report**

Lisa Simmonds, Linda Gray and Cllr Reece met with Robert Slarke from Waveney Norse who has agreed to prune the trees in the Memorial Garden and will remove the dead trees from Angel Link. They are still waiting for communication regarding the grass in the Churchyard.

There are also 150 trees per tree warden available from The Woodland Trust that Lisa will apply for.

- 9. Rewilding Halesworth – Cllr Chadwick** - This will be moved to the next meeting as Cllr Chadwick was unable to attend.
- 10. Use of pesticide reduction in Halesworth – Cllr Chadwick** - This will be moved to the next meeting as Cllr Chadwick was unable to attend.
- 11. Cycle Paths – an update on the provision of cycle paths in Halesworth** Cllr Wollweber explained that the Council was in discussion with County Highways regarding the provision of cycle paths in the town, especially from the Triple Plea to Harrisons Lane and Saxons Way.
Cllr Wollweber will circulate the Sustrans report to the group.
A member of the public asked that any new cycle routes considered should be practical and easy to use as for example the one on Norwich Road is not cyclist friendly due the multiple junctions.
Lisa Simmonds reminded the Committee that the Neighbourhood Plan could possibly include policies to ensure new housing developments include provision for cyclists.
- 12. Plastic reduction – to consider proposal** – Cllr Reece would like to run a competition for children aged 15 and under. It would involve entrants collecting plastic from their households for recycling. There would be a small prize for the winner. She will write a proposal and take to the next full Council meeting for consideration.
- 13. Correspondence** – The Council had received a letter regarding the grass cutting in the town and the ‘excuse the weeds, we’re feeding the bees’ scheme.
The Committee will send a list of places to the Assistant Clerk where the hedges or grass had grown too long and was presenting a danger.
- 14. Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be via Zoom (unless the C19 regulations change) on Monday 10th August at 7pm.