



HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee Meeting Via Zoom
Thursday 14th January 2021

Waveney Local Office
London Road
Halesworth

Present: Cllr J Reece (in the Chair) Cllrs D Thomas and T Allen, Sarah Butt, Lisa Simmonds, Gabrielle Maughan, Martin Dominic,

In Attendance: Phillippa Welby (Assistant Clerk)

MINUTES

1. **Apologies** – None received.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None received.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – The minutes of the meeting of the 17th December 2020 were agreed.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes** – None.
5. **Chair's Report** – Cllr Reece covered item number six in her Chair's report. The Community Garden proposal had been passed back to the Committee for more details. The Council thought there was not enough information to make a decision. Cllr Reece will put together a more detailed proposal and circulate to the group for comments. Sarah Butt has agreed to become the project coordinator with Sarah Best as the project manager.
Cllr Allen asked whether some of the space could be used to extend the allotments at the Saxon plot. Cllr Reece said the current plan for the garden used the whole plot. Lisa Simmonds asked whether more allotment land could be found elsewhere in Halesworth. Cllr Reece thought that there was a possibility for the green space at Kennedy Close to be converted to allotments.
The residents living close to the Swan Lane play area would get an information pack to explain the Community Garden idea after it had been passed by full Council.
6. **Community Garden Project** – Covered above.
7. **Play areas/green spaces** –
Kennedy Close – This space is relatively big and under used. It has potential for extra allotments.
Old Station Road – This another big plot but unlike Kennedy Close, it's well used.
Barley Meadow – Consists of two benches but is big enough to make in to a pleasant space.
Gainsborough Drive – has a well-used playground but can get very wet under foot. Possibility of improving the play equipment in the future.
Swan Lane – This plot HTC already own and this is the focus for the Community Garden idea.
Chichester Road and Allington Drive have not been offered to HTC in the potential transfer of assets.
Cllr Allen asked whether any of these had been discussed with the Neighbourhood Plan group. Cllrs Reece and Thomas had met with Charlotte Slater from the group who had Green Spaces as her remit on the plan.
8. **River update** – Cllr Thomas had prepared a river report for the Council and also circulated it to this Committee. He had made two proposals to HTC. To repair the banks

where they had slipped under the Saxons Way bridge and to increase the height of the walls in the underpass to prevent the footpath flooding so frequently. He had addressed these two issues as when the underpass floods it forces people to cross road into the park where there is no pedestrian crossing. He is investigating the costs and issues of these proposals with HTC.

SZC – The appeal to stop the destruction of Coronation Wood before the planning application for SZC has been approved has been lost. Cllr Thomas is still waiting on a response from ESC regarding his questions on the Fen Meadow development outside Halesworth.

9. Tree Wardens report – Lisa Simmonds reported that she is still waiting to hear from ESC about the tree in the arboretum. She asked whether HTC could organise the cleaning of the shelters. Cllr Reece will take this to the Council. Cllr Reece also reported that HTC were still none the wiser as to why the Land had been cleared on Saxons Way despite writing to the owners. ESC confirmed that they had not had any planning applications for that land either. Cllr Reece confirmed that HTC were going to replace the fence between the land and the allotments.

10. Correspondence – Cllr Reece had received an email from a visitor to Halesworth regarding electric car charging points. She had been in dialogue with a company who supply them, however they needed to be on HTC land and currently the Council did not own any land that was suitable.

11. Date of next meeting – Thursday 4th February 2021.