

MINUTES of a meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & AMMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KINGSBURY SQUARE, WILTON on TUESDAY 17th September 2019 at 7.00pm

**Present** Cllr Pauline Church  
Cllr Peter Edge  
Cllr Paula Johnston  
Cllr Phil Matthews  
Cllr Teresa Taylor

**In Attendance** Mr Hugh Abel, *Minute Secretary*.

**Also Present** Simon Cook, Carol & Richard Marks

**Composition of the Environment & Amenities Committee for the Municipal year 2019-2020**

Cllr Peter Edge	Cllr Phil Matthews
Cllr Pauline Church	Cllr Ivan Seviour, Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Lee Glyde	Cllr Teresa Taylor
Cllr Paula Johnston	

**Community Engagement session**

*Carol Marks* – told the meeting that some of the car parking problems in Castle Lane were due to the wooden posts in the verge near to the Meadow's gates. People leave a wide berth so as not to damage their vehicles on the posts some of which are becoming rotten. If all these posts were removed, there would be more space for vehicles and less of a problem.

**AGENDA**

*Cllr Edge in the chair*

**97/19 Apologies**

Cllr Glyde apologised for his absence owing to ill health  
Cllr Seviour apologised for his absence because of health problems  
Mr Steve Milton apologised for his absence because of health problems  
**Resolved:** to accept these apologies and the reasons for them

**98/19 Declarations of Interest**

- a. None were declared
  - b. Dispensation requests – none had been submitted
- Resolved:** to note

**99/19 Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 18th June.  
The minutes were approved with two amendments:-  
That Cllr Matthews had offered his apologies and was not present at the meeting  
The voting for Committee Chairman had been three to three rather than two to two because each candidate had voted for themselves.  
(*prop Cllr Johnston, sec Cllr Taylor – unanimous*)

**100/19 Community Engagement**

*Posts in Castle Lane* – After discussion it was agreed that the posts should be taken out

**ACTION:** The Town Clerk

**101/19 Grant Application: Wilton Baptist Church –Town Clock**

The Committee considered an application for funding from Wilton Baptist Church  
*It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow Simon Cook opportunity to speak.*

Simon Cook outlined the need for work to update the mechanism on the clock, which dated from 1824, so that it would be able to keep more accurate time.

*resolved to restore standing orders.*

After discussion it was resolved to support this application and make a grant of £500 towards the work. *(prop Cllr Church, sec Cllr Matthews – unanimous)*

#### **102/19 Tennis Courts: Access System and Charges**

Members were in receipt of the Town Clerk's report.

After wide ranging discussion it was agreed to seek further clarification on:-

- References for Club Net
- Other providers' offer
- True cost (how to cover out of hours problems and the Town Council's ability to handle cash payments)

**ACTION:** Town Clerk

#### **103/19 Wilton Christmas Tree**

Members have previously considered the need for work to the Christmas Tree in the Market Square. Quotations were sought from four local tree surgeons and the best quote received was from Wessex Woodland Management in the sum of £1,480. Wessex recommend reducing the crown and overall canopy, removing crossing limbs, crown raising and removing deadwood.

Wiltshire Council's Tree Officer has been consulted about the quote and proposed works and has supported the proposals in principle subject to planning. He has experience of Wessex and commends their work. A planning application has been prepared but this is on hold until members have considered the matter further.

**Resolved:** to proceed with the work

*(prop Cllr Johnston, sec Cllr Taylor – all in favour)*

#### **104/19 Wilton Christmas Celebrations 2019**

To receive an update from the Christmas Celebrations Working Party which met on 12th September

Cllr Edge reported that it was proposed to start the celebrations at 4.00pm on Friday 6th December. The working party will be trying to get as many businesses as possible to display Christmas trees mounted on the walls outside their premises. The committee and other volunteers will be taking Santa's sleigh round most of the town during the Christmas period

The matter of Christmas lights in Wilton was raised – After discussion it was agreed to explore the costs of two arrays in North Street and two in South Street. It was also suggested that lighting Kingsbury Square be considered. Cllr Edge will bring a costed proposal to Full Council.

**ACTION:** Cllr Edge

#### **105/19 Castle Meadow: Goal Posts**

The existing goalposts at Castle Meadow are corroded and potentially hazardous. Three quotes have been sought for replacements and an application has been made for Section 106 (R2) funds to meet the costs. The cheapest quote was received from the Soccer Store which was over £200 less than the second lowest quote. Members are asked to approve the replacement goal posts supplied by The Soccer Store at a cost of £667.

It was asked if the cost was for one or two goals.

**Resolved:** to go ahead after checking that the posts were the correct size and standard for senior club football.

*(prop Cllr Edge, sec Cllr Taylor – all in favour)*

## 106/19 Wilton Biodiversity Action Plan

Following a meeting with local stakeholders, there is strong support for Wilton to develop a biodiversity action plan.

Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Wilton Town Council has a duty to conserve biodiversity. Notwithstanding this, there is real enthusiasm in the Town for more environmental projects.

The Wilton Wildlife Group (WWG) managed by Maria La Femina has 163 members and actively records wildlife sightings on its dedicated Facebook site, manages habitats and undertakes projects around the Town. Maria has asked if the Council can help support and promote the group's biodiversity work. So far, the Council has helped by purchasing equipment that has been loaned to the group. However the time might be right for the Council to take a more proactive approach to biodiversity and sustainability.

Biodiversity is all about protecting and enhancing local habitats, ecosystems and species, but the environment is also a valuable resource for local people - promoting physical and mental wellbeing, education and social connections. Promoting biodiversity sits alongside wider sustainability and climate change initiatives. The Council has already signalled its willingness to embrace its environmental stewardship role, it has introduced solar panels at the pavilion, switched to green energy, allocated funds for electric car charging points, experimented with wildflower planting in its parks and supported a sustainable local milk machine in South Street Car Park. However, there is much more that can be done. An initial partnership meeting was held in August, with Town Council representatives, WWG, U3A and Wiltshire Wildlife attending. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the creation of a Biodiversity Action Plan. Alongside this work, the Wiltshire Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) has appointed planning consultants and will shortly be undertaking consultation with local residents.

Timing is perfect to join up these two strands of work –biodiversity and sustainability will be core elements of the Neighbourhood Plan. Wiltshire Wildlife has offered to support the biodiversity work, undertaking site appraisals and audits. The Council has also worked with Becky Twigg of the Salisbury Bee project, who has offered similar assistance, and it will be important to keep everyone involved.

Producing a biodiversity action plan can be a daunting process. Examples readily available on the internet often run to 30 pages or more and are packed with technical detail. This may be too big an ask for local volunteers and the Council might want to support a more pragmatic approach based on a simple action focused plan. An approach that might work well in Wilton is to build on what we have already. The following is suggested:

- Form a Steering Group of local stakeholders
- Support existing groups and work alongside the NPG
- Commission a biodiversity audit from a local provider
- Identify priority themes
- Create a plan with a simple list of SMART actions
- Monitor outcomes

**Resolved:** to accept these six recommendations.

*Cllr Church* asked that Wiltshire Council be added as a stakeholder as it is involved in managing verges etc.

*Cllr Johnston* suggested that a waterways management plan was needed.

*Cllr Edge* thought this would be difficult as EA were responsible for local waterways.

### 107/19 Wilton Police Station

Following notification that the Police Station is likely to come up for sale in the near future, members are asked to consider whether an expression of interest should be made to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It is considered that the building could have the potential to become a community hub incorporating a heritage centre, library and gallery subject to funding being available. Members are asked to consider this matter and pass on observations to full council

**Resolved:** That Wilton register an expression of interest with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

### 108/19 Updates

- **Cemetery:** The plaque commemorating the War graves has been commissioned, delivery expected in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Matthews reported that the grass and hedges had been cut and trimmed. He also reported on the events surrounding an interment on 9th September and suggested that Tim Laishley should be commended for his actions in assisting the occasion.

- **Pavilion:** The CCTV system has been upgraded and is awaiting commissioning. Additionally, the lighting needs checking with some bulbs and the outside lights being fixed.

In Castle Meadow, the dipping platform needs to be fenced off as the steps pose a danger particularly to young children.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk

- **Street Naming:** A sign for Pennys lane has been ordered and is expected shortly. The original sign can't be traced although it was suspected that it might be hidden behind the dense ivy growth. Wilton Estate need to be contacted to get the ivy trimmed. **ACTION:** Town Clerk
- **South Street Car Park:** The Nunton Farm Milk Dispenser was opened formally on 6th September. A contract for the removal of kerbstones in the parking bays has been let.
- **Minster Street:** Path repairs complete and broken gate has been replaced. A dead fir tree has been identified and needs to be felled and removed. Also a notice advising people not to climb on the fountain needs to be created and displayed. **ACTION:** Town Clerk
- **Public Toilets:** Leaks have been fixed and seats, tissue holders and lights replaced. It was noted that the drain outside the toilets is completely blocked with leaves and needs clearing.
- **Wilton Wildlife Group:** Gardening equipment has been purchased and loaned to the Wilton Wildlife Group to support their works on the Downs.
- **Green Energy:** The Council has moved to 100% green energy, supplied by Good Energy Ltd, a Wiltshire based energy company

### 109/19 Budget Monitoring Report

To note the budget monitoring report.

**Resolved: to note**

#### **110/19 Planning Applications Received**

To consider the following planning applications and to make representations to Wiltshire Council as appropriate:

(a) **19/08190/FUL:** Second Floor Extension to Create Home Office-46 Shaftesbury Road, Wilton

**Resolved:** to support

(b) **19/05443/FUL:** Proposed energy storage facility to provide energy balancing services to the National Grid-Land Adjacent to Salisbury Substation. It was agreed that there was no objection to the Battery Storage facility BUT concerns were expressed about the proposed access from the Avenue and recommend that an alternative route be found.

#### **111/19 Correspondence received**

No correspondence had been received since the publication of the agenda

#### **112/19 Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next Full Council Meeting as Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

#### **113/19 To close the meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

#### **Equality Statement**

In the exercise of their responsibilities, Wilton Town Councillors have committed to uphold the Code of Conduct and to have full regard of the following in decision making:

- Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability)
- Data Protection(GDPR)
- Health & Safety
- Human Rights.