

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held at the Community & Youth Building, rear of Redfield Edge School, Oldland Common on Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: J Allinson, M Bridge, A Coales, L Efthymiou,
K Scudamore

Mrs S Jones – Leisure Officer

37. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED that Councillor M Bridge be so appointed.

38. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED that Councillor L Efthymiou be so appointed.

The Chairman outlined procedures for exit from the building in the event of an emergency.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Collins.

40. PRESENTATION BY SALLY PATTISON FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL REGARDING BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE PARISH

Pollinating Insects

Miss Pattison explained the importance of pollinating insects and plans to introduce more habitat and planting, to start to compensate for the decline in wildflower meadows. Some of the suggestions include:

- ▶ More flowers (especially native wildflowers)
- ▶ More flowering trees, shrubs and hedges
- ▶ Shelter and nesting sites
- ▶ A wildlife corridor effect
- ▶ Involve and inspire parishioners
- ▶ Partnership working

The full biodiversity action plan can be found via the South Gloucestershire Council website.

Increasing Tree Cover

Miss Pattison commented on a report outlining South Gloucestershire Councils plans on the need for tree planting. It was hoped to include Bitton Parish in tree planting in the Autumn and suggested involving the local community in the planting once a site had been earmarked.

RESOLVED to create a link to this from the Parish website.

RESOLVED for Councillors to suggest pockets of land where grass can be left long or new trees can be planted.

41. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee meeting held on 30th April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

The financial report had been circulated and was noted.

RESOLVED that the schedule of maintenance of the planted areas be circulated to the committee.

43. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ALLOTMENT SITES

Councillors were made aware of a complaint regarding the cutting of paths which was dealt with by sending a letter to all tenants asking them to be mindful of their neighbouring plot holders when cutting shared paths.

44. CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION 2019

Councillor Allinson explained that there had been problems with poster production and printing but this has now been resolved and she would be visiting schools before the end of term.

45. BITTON IN BLOOM AND ALLOTMENT COMPETITIONS 2019

Councillor Allinson explained that she was in the process of organising judging of the competitions: Gardens, Schools & Businesses and the Allotments. It was agreed that the prizes for the competition remain the same as last year, including a plant for each winner.

46. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2019

The entries for the photographic competition were judged and the winners chosen.

RESOLVED that the winners be invited to the next Full Council meeting to be presented with their prizes.

47. TO CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

a) **Local Footpath Walks.** The footpaths walks continue to be successful with 19 walkers in April and 28 in May. The next walk will be 30th June.

b) **Buggy Walks.** The walker numbers for May/June were around 8. Emma Henson who is one of the volunteer walk leaders would like to run several Facebook competitions to encourage more walkers.

RESOLVED that a £5 and £10 voucher could be purchased from Avon Valley Railway for the café and used as prizes.

c) **Friendship & Exercise Club.** The two groups continue to be well attended.

d) **Footpaths.** Several trees are causing concern on the footpath from Court Road to School Road.

RESOLVED to monitor the situation.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

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Chairman