



Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting of Morecambe Town Council held at Morecambe Town Hall at 18:00 on the twenty-first day of September 2023.

Members Present: Councillors J Ainscough, P Hart, G Knight, C Kent, C Cozler, J Pilling, P Clarke.

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer).

Minute EC2324-001

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs D Whitaker, D Blacow, J Rogerson.

Minute EC2324-002

Declarations of Interests

Cllr J Ainscough - Member of Lancaster City Council, Portfolio Holder for Environment Services

Cllr C Cozler - Member of Lancaster City Council

Cllr P Hart - Member of Lancaster City Council

Minute EC2324-003

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute EC2324-004

Public Participation

None.

Minute EC2324-005

Weeding / Public Realm

The Committee received an update regarding the current delivery of the district-wide weeding service. It was noted that different working practices and schedules were being trialled to find the most effective method of reaching as many different areas of Lancaster as possible within the shortest timeframe. This has meant not all wards in Morecambe will be sprayed first. However, this will ensure that the Town Council has a consistent presence in a variety of wards across the district during the two-month cyclic programme, reassuring all residents that no one area is being prioritised.

It was noted that Harbour ward had not yet received a second cyclic spray.

Members requested the PO enquired about a demonstration of the Foamstream system as an alternative to the use of herbicide.

Cllr J Ainscough explained that Lancaster City Council had historically undertaken some research with Lancaster University regarding weed spraying whereby it was concluded that glyphosate was deemed the most efficient product to use.

The Committee agreed that when the second cyclic spray concludes, the Town Rangers should be deployed to tackle some of the most compacted areas of leaf litter and soil in kerb lines around Morecambe. The PO will liaise with members to identify hotspots in each ward.

A member reported epicormic growth around trees on Broadway bridge.

Members noted that public realm areas and infrastructure in the public realm needed attention - particularly the youth hut opposite the rail station which is in desperate need of a repaint. PO to follow up with LCC regarding plans to repaint. There was other infrastructure (such as a bench on Mardale Avenue in Bare - originally purchased and donated by MTC) which is also in need of ongoing maintenance.

The Committee agreed to remove all council noticeboards which are in a state of disrepair. The Committee agreed to pass over ownership to any local organisations who have indicated an appetite to take over the ongoing maintenance/management of the boards to advertise their own activities. Members spoke of the importance of available information in physical notice boards in the future and it was agreed to source costs for larger, more substantial, products for consideration. It was noted that the existing noticeboards were not adequately durable for a seaside location, with each unit suffering erosion to the paintwork and lock mechanisms. Any replacements will need to be more durable and better suited to withstand the weather. Members requested that Age UK be asked about the best ways in which to engage with all demographics of the community.

Minute EC2324-006

Tree Guard

It was resolved to purchase a tree guard for a new tree to be planted in memory of the late Janice Hanson at a cost of approximately £200 plus delivery.

Minute EC2324-007

Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declarations

The Committee discussed how Morecambe could become more environmentally friendly by 2030, as opposed to “becoming net carbon zero” (which can be cost prohibitive for many people).

The Committee agreed to arrange a Working Group meeting, consisting of local schools, colleges, Lancaster University, Stanleys Community Centre, Eden Project, Morecambe BID. Members agreed to forward additional lists of community organisations prior to first meeting being arranged.

It was noted that simple steps can be made to reduce energy consumption such as turning off computers and lights each night.

Members noted that The Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm fund was also available to explore. It was also noted that Heysham Power Station had grants available.

It was recommended that the Council explore potentially contacting and visiting other authorities such as Stroud/Frome Town Councils to see how they tackle some of the same issues through their Environment Committee.