

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE meeting of LYMM PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Lymm Village Hall

- In attendance:
- * Cllr Johnstone (Chair)
 - * Cllr East
 - * Cllr Oakley
 - * Cllr Selwood
 - * Cllr Stansfield
 - * Cllr Towndrow
- * Denotes attendance

Also in attendance: Kerry Duffin, Clerk to the Council
Paul Urmston, Environment Manager, Lymm Parish Council
Tim Baker, Warrington Borough Council
Ray Banton, LEAF

EN44. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened at 7.30pm.

EN45. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Towndrow and Sue, re: Lymm Footpaths.

EN46. Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

- a) Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest or prejudicial interest they may have had in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item was reached.
- b) Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles.

EN47. Public Open Forum

No residents raised any questions.

EN48. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting on 18th July 2023 were approved as an accurate representation and signed by the Chair.

EN49. Update on previous actions:

ITEM	ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	UPDATE
5.1	Follow up WBC for large, printed maps	Clerk	Maps received – check they are fit for purpose. Remove item.
6.5	Restart the signage group – PENDING	Cllr Johnstone	PENDING
43	Add water testing at Slitten Brook to the next meeting	Clerk	Clerk to ask other parishes how they test water / if they use independent companies to do so.

53.3	Lymm in Bloom – Sunken Gardens social media campaign and first working group meeting	Clerk	Completed. Remove.
53.4	Keep Lymm Kleen – future of group and Big Help Out group pick	Clerk	Email dates for group pick and include interest in gulley watch group.
57	Picture of overflowing bins to be shared with the Clerk	Tim Baker	Completed. Remove.
EN11	Air quality symposium – follow up report from the meeting	Clerk	A follow up event is going to be organised. Cllr Barr attended and Clerk to ask for notes / review.
EN13	Follow up cup recycling scheme at McDonalds	Clerk	To be actioned.
EN17	Canal side lights	Clerk	Price up alternative options
EN29	Gulley reporting volunteer group to be looked into for a future agenda	Clerk	On the agenda
EN32	LEAF – share website details	Clerk	On the social media plan
EN33	Follow up with insurance broker re: welcome to Lymm sign	Clerk	Completed and on the agenda
EN34	Update again following the meeting with the electrician re: the clock	Clerk	New electrician has been confirmed
EN35	Add Carbon Footprint trees to the next relevant agenda	Clerk	Pending end of Q2
EN36	Add Environment Committee climate document to next agenda	Clerk	On the agenda
EN40	Add costs for Speed Indicator Devices (SID) batteries to next relevant agenda	Clerk	Pending end of Q2 updates
EN41	Add costs for replacement sign at the dingle steps to next relevant agenda	Clerk	Pending end of Q2 updates

EN50. Updates from partners and working groups including:

i. Warrington Borough Council Ranger Services

Update provided regarding the ranger's activity across Lymm since the last meeting including work at Lymm Dam from the probation service, anglers at the Dam, reducing numbers of invertebrates in the Dam, balsam, bikes on the newly surfaced trans-Pennine trail and fallen trees on footpath 16.

ii. Footpath Wardens

An update was emailed including uncertainty about the application for registering of the footpath behind the former Manor Road tennis courts.

iii. Lymm in Bloom

An update was emailed including RHS North-West in Bloom competition. Judging day was held on 17th August. The judges seemed impressed with efforts. Lymm in Bloom volunteers are grateful to all the Lymm in Bloom volunteers as well as the teams who helped to prepare the village for judging day including Lymm Jubilee gardening club, Lymm Jubilee WI, Lymm litter pickers and the craft knitting groups who applied toppers to the post box at the Lower Dam. Results will be announced on 19th October at an awards ceremony hosted by North-West in Bloom.

Lymm in Bloom will be changing the summer bedding to winter bedding during October. The large brick planter at the Lower Dam will have permanent plants introduced this autumn, with additions next spring, as well as winter bedding. This will mean that all planters in the village and surrounds are a mix of permanent and annual bedding. This will help to further reduce the amount of annual bedding we use, reducing overall costs, improving sustainability and environmental benefits.

3) In Bloom volunteers continue to make improvements to permanent beds, including the introduction of a shade bed in the Sunken Garden planted with ferns and Heuchara, and will be creating a bed for white flowering plants in a space previously given to polyanthus (primula) .

iv. Keep Lymm Kleen

A group pick is to be arranged for the autumn and gulley watch volunteers to be sought.

v. Sensor working group

No update was made.

vi. Public Rights of Way (PROW) working group

Submission of the application for Heatley has started. Clerk to seek an update on this and clarify which meetings are Friends of Heatley Mere and the Parish Council's Public Rights of Way Working Group. A recent article in Lymm Pages was discussed and a Parish Council response will be agreed at the October meeting.

vii. Allotments

No update was made.

viii. Lymm Parish Council's Environment Team

The team manager, Paul Urmston, provided an update on recent activity on the current 8 week plan including strimming at Slitten Gorge. Future weeks will start to include leaf clearance. The team will also check the padlocks and keys on Sow Brook allotment gates.

ix. LEAF

An update was made including on the purchase and the training for thermal imaging cameras to ascertain where heat is being lost in homes, ethical finance and the AGM will be on September 27th.

Updates were provided on:

EN51. Gulley Watch

The Clerk is awaiting documents from the Borough Council officers that gave the presentation.

EN52. Damaged 'Welcome to Lymm' sign

At Full Council in November 2022, it was reported that the Welcome to Lymm sign on Warrington Road (similar to the one pictured below) had been damaged beyond repair. It was also reported to the police and to Zurich, the insurance company.

The quotes for the full cost of replacing and installing the sign are:

Artwork	£45
Sign production	£840

Sign installation	£750
TOTAL	£1635

The Parish Council, however, has only been offered £766.16 towards the cost of the replacement by the insurers, Zurich.

This is not in keeping with the insurance claim in 2021 for the Sandy Lane phone box. The insured amount was £2,700 each however following the arson attack, the payout received was £4,038.12.

To date, the value of the insured items that appear on the schedule of insurance have been the purchase amounts. It now seems that the (same) insurance company is paying out only for the insured amount rather than the cost of replacement.

RECOMMENDATION: Officers to update the insured amounts as soon as practical.

RECOMMENDATION: Council to agree an annual method to increase the insured values, either by researching the replacement costs annually or by adopting a percentage amount to increase the values by.

RECOMMENDATION: Parish Council does not proceed with the replacement of the sign at this time, at a cost of the Parish Council of £868.84.

EN53. New Parish Council Noticeboard

Planning Permission has now been received. The new board can now be ordered and installed.

RECOMMENDATION: The board to be updated by the Parish Council in partnership with LEAF. Contact Co-Op on Cherry Lane to enquire of the old board can be added to the exterior wall.

EN54. Water Testing at Slitten Brook and Sow Brook

Clerk to enquire with other Councils what procedures they use and if they contract third parties.

EN55. Rats

Following increased sightings of rats, Parish Council will share reporting channels on social media and in newsletters.

EN56. Damage to the archway at The Dingle

The iron monger that made the archway has been contacted for a cost to repair the vandalised part.

New items considered:

EN57. Budgets for 2024-25

The Clerk and Chair will take an initial look at potential budgets.

EN58. Renaming the Sunken Gardens

Committee considered whether to rename the gardens to the Peter Powell Memorial Gardens in his honour. It was agreed to delegate this item to the working group.

EN59. New bin between the benches by the Sunken Gardens

The suggestion of a new bin to be added between the benches at the Sunken Gardens was costed at £746.71 + VAT plus £60 installation costs. Council deferred the item due to a lack of funding at this time.

EN60. Environment Committee climate document

There was insufficient time to discuss this item. Forward to the next agenda.

EN61. Environment Committee Climate Emergency Training – Creating Green & Resilient Communities

Council considered paying for 3 places out of the training budget at a cost of £150 for 3 (normally £75 each). The sessions are on the evenings of October 11, 18 and 25 from 7-9.15pm.

RECOMMENDATION: Cllr Stansfield and Clerk to attend as long as the sessions are recorded.

EN62. Cobbles repair

RECOMMENDATION: To secure the removed cobbles around The Cross with concrete. The emergency work to make the area safe will be at a cost of £205 including labour and materials.

EN63. Graffiti on The Cross

There has been graffiti reported on the memorial, with a plan for removal to be sought. The Environment Team will attempt removal.

EN64. Lights at The Cross

Two of the three street lamps on The Cross are not working. Clerk to contact Warrington Borough Council to request repair.

EN65. Wildflower follow up

The Parish Council has received request to increase the number of wildflower areas in 2024. The Environment Team will investigate further potential areas.

EN42. Items for next meeting

EN43. Date of next meeting

20th November 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 10pm.

Actions from the meeting:

ITEM	ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE
5.1	Follow up WBC for large, printed maps	Clerk
6.5	Restart the signage group – PENDING	Cllr Johnstone
EN11	Air quality symposium – follow up report from the meeting and share new meeting date once arrives	Clerk
EN13	Follow up cup recycling scheme at McDonalds	Clerk
EN17	Canal side lights – cost alternative schemes	Clerk
EN35	Add Carbon Footprint trees to the next relevant agenda	Clerk
EN40	Add costs for Speed Indicator Devices (SID) batteries to next relevant agenda	Clerk

EN41	Add costs for replacement sign at the dingle steps to next relevant agenda	Clerk
EN50	Keep Lymm Kleen – email to arrange a group pick for October and gauge interest in gulley watch	Clerk
EN50	PROW group – what is the update re: Heatley application	Clerk
EN50	Allotment – padlocks / keys for gates	Environment Team
EN51	Chase gulley presentation from WBC	Clerk
EN54	Ask other parishes about water testing	Clerk
EN57	Forward Environment Committee climate document to next agenda	Clerk
EN63	Attempt to remove graffiti on the memorial at The Cross	Environment Team
EN64	Report broken lights on The Cross to WBC	Clerk