

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE meeting of LYMM PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 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

EN76 Welcome and Introductions
 The meeting opened at 7.05pm.

EN77 Apologies for Absence
 Apologies were received from Cllr Towndrow.

EN78 Code of Conduct
 Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles.

EN79 Declaration of Interests
 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.

EN80 Public Open Forum
 One resident attended the meeting.

EN81 Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes
RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting on 20th November 2023 were approved as an accurate representation and signed by the Chair.

EN82 Update on previous actions:

ITEM	ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	UPDATE
96.5	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	Pending reply from Cllr Harris. Clerk has sent another email to Cllr Harris along with an invite to Cllr Harris to attend the Committee meeting in person.
EN17	Canal side lights – cost alternative schemes	Clerk	Add to a future agenda.

EN35	Add Carbon Footprint trees to the next relevant agenda	Clerk	On the agenda.
EN40	Add costs for Speed Indicator Devices (SID) batteries to next relevant agenda	Clerk	On the agenda.
EN41	Add costs for replacement sign at the dingle steps to next relevant agenda	Clerk	On the agenda.
EN50	Keep Lymm Kleen Gulley watch	Clerk	Arrange a group pick later in the year. Interest was high. To follow up once the Assistant Clerk has completed further induction.
EN50	PROW group – what is the update re: Heatley application	Clerk	Update on the agenda.
EN74	Table a draft policy and action plan at a future meeting	Cllr Stansfield	Policy and plan approved in December. Action plan on the agenda for discussion.

EN83 Updates from partners and groups including:

a. Warrington Borough Council Ranger Services

No update was made.

b. Footpath Wardens

A Public Rights of Way Forum meeting at Warrington Borough Council gathered information for the next PROW improvement plan. A draft plan will follow.

c. Lymm in Bloom

An update included:

- Holding the AGM on Thursday 29th February
- The first working party will be on Sunday 3rd March, aiming to meet weekly in March to prepare new beds for planting. This includes the wildflower bed by the woodland walk, and the 'white' bed close to the woodland walk, both in Ridgway Grundy park
- Entering the RHS North West in Bloom competition again this year
- Submitting a grant application request for funding for planting, plus ordering the summer bedding via Smiths as in previous years.

d. Keep Lymm Kleen

No update was made.

e. Speeding and sensor working group

No update was made.

f. Public Rights of Way (PROW) working group

All four applications have now been submitted and confirmed as received by the PROW officer. None of the applications are currently listed on the register of Definitive Map Modification Order Applications on the Warrington Borough Council website.

A new deadline of 1st January 2031 has been introduced for registering PROWs. Clarification is required about whether this is for submissions to be in the system or for paths to have been approved and registered.

g. LEAF

A LEAF representative update included LEAF has been lending the thermal camera to home owners, a survey is being conducted for residents' needs, climate emergency books are being obtained by the library and a film club will start at LYCA showing environmental themed films.

h. Allotments

An investigation into asbestos at Sow Brook has been taking place and a recommendation will be on the March Full Council agenda for removal of a specified amount. The area at John Road garages was discussed as a potential development for further allotments and has been proposed to Warrington Borough Council, the landowners.

i. Lymm Parish Council's Environment Team

The midweek team member leaves at the end of February with a recruitment plan due to start the week of March 4th 2024.

EN84 Biodiversity Duty – Action Plan

Committee reviewed and amended the action plan and deadlines, with the areas that the Parish Council's Environment Team to be added. Actions must be proactive, not just reactive.

EN85 2023-24 Budget review

The updated budget for 23-24 was shared and used for the remaining agenda items. A cup recycling scheme to be researched for the March Full Council meeting.

EN86 Speed Indicator Batteries

RECOMMENDATION: Committee agreed to the purchase of additional batteries to allow for increased recording of data at a cost of £150.

EN87 Signage at The Dingle

RECOMMENDATION: Committee approved a £300 quote to update the sign, and to include the location of the play parks.

EN88 Climate Emergency – tree planting to become carbon neutral

RECOMMENDATION: Committee agreed to a £300 budget to plant sufficient trees to offset the carbon footprint of 118,241 kgs of CO2.

EN89 Wildflowers 2024

RECOMMENDATION: Six areas for wildflowers have been identified across the village by the Environment Team, that fulfil the criteria for wildflowers. The areas are featured in the attached report and will be shared with Warrington Borough Council officers to confirm viability of the locations and will be tabled at the Full Council meeting in March for approval.

EN90 Cobbles at The Cross

RECOMMENDATION: There has been further removal of cobbles on The Cross. Council recommends an additional budget of £250 for further repairs.

EN91 Items for next meeting – updates on:

- a. Climate noticeboard updates – with LEAF
- b. Water testing
- c. Rats
- d. Dingle archway
- e. Lights on The Cross

EN92 Date of next meeting

A date was not set due to the proximity of the elections. A paper will be drafted for the April Full Council meeting, for hanging baskets, planters, wildflowers, Lymm in Bloom and the purchase of bedding plants and flowers.

Actions from the meeting:

ITEM	ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE
96.5	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
EN17	Canal side lights – how to progress	Clerk
EN83h	Add asbestos removal and costs to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk
EN84	Update the Biodiversity Policy and Plan	Clerk
EN85	Add cup recycling scheme to the March agenda and research options	Cllr Stansfield / Clerk
EN86	Add SID batteries to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk
EN87	Add new signage at the top of the Dingle steps to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk
EN88	Add climate emergency trees / offsetting and budget to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk
EN89	Add the wildflowers recommendations to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk
	Check with WBC that the areas suggested for wildflowers are appropriate.	Clerk
EN90	Add a budget for replacing removed cobbles from The Cross to the March Full Council agenda	Clerk