

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 19th November 2020 via zoom video conferencing which commenced at 7:35pm

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor J Howe, with Councillors C Argent, G Gilbert, R Green, M Kane and A South

IN ATTENDANCE: L Ellis (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDING ORDERS:**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd OCTOBER 2020:**

The minutes of the above meeting were duly noted.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Neighbourhood Plan update: There is no update on the NHP however it was reported that a Barrister had been secured to represent the Council in their objection at the NHDC Local Plan hearing session to the new land proposed for a G&T site at Danesbury Park Road.

Community Orchard update: The Clerk reported that Mr Creasey, Codicote Environment Group (CEG) had responded to the Council's letter regarding the community orchard. He reminded Council that CEG created the orchard in 1997, raised funds and grants and the group has planted and maintained it all on a voluntary basis.

It was noted that the orchard does not look like a public space but it is an area for all and not just CEG. They do not decide who has or where the fruit goes, there needs to be some inclusion from the Council.

The Council funds the grass cutting and this year they are funding the tree works required. Volunteers wishing to assist with the orchard would need to be well versed in the management of fruit trees.

Benches, bus shelters & noticeboards:

- **Benches** – Councillor Howe reported that the majority of the benches only needed to be cleaned. However the bench around the walnut tree on The Green is in a poor condition. The Clerk to provide the Chairman with a list of all benches to ensure that none have been overlooked. Councillor Argent **agreed** to provide a number of paving slabs as some benches were tilting on their grass base.
- **Bus shelters** – It was noted that there was still a large number of books in the temporary library; these will need to be re-located so that the shelter can be used for its intended purpose. Councillor Argent **agreed** to make some enquiries to locate the resident who set up the project to resolve the situation. Councillor Howe **agreed** to make a full assessment of the 3 shelters for discussion at the January meeting.
- **Noticeboards** – Councillor Argent **agreed** to approach the resident to ascertain if he would be willing to repair/replace the noticeboards for which the Council would

fully fund all costs. It was noted that County Councillor Thake had been approached regarding the maintenance work required to the white gateways.

Dog bin locations:

It was noted that the bin at the entrance/exit to the St Albans Road recreation ground (Cowards Lane end) was missing as was the signpost that it was attached to. The Chairman **agreed** to fix a replacement bin on the brick pillar.

The Clerk reported that residents had recently approached the Chairman of NHDC to request that an additional bin be located at the corner of Bury Lane and the High Street. The Committee did not agree to the request as bins are located only a short distance away.

Update on The Pound: The Clerk reported that she had approached Codicote in Bloom (CiB) to request their help with tidying and bulb planting. Bulbs are to be purchased in bulk and planted under the trees and ferns. Councillor Howe will approach the School's Head Teacher to ascertain if the school children would like to be involved in installing hedgehog, bat and bird boxes.

5. TO CONSIDER UNDERTAKING A TRAFFIC SURVEY ON THE B656:

E007 Councillor Kane reported that he was concerned that the concrete batching plant operation in Langley once opened would cause havoc to the traffic flow along the High Street. Their planning application vehicle assessment document indicates 54 movements per day (5 – 6 lorries an hour) between 7am – 6pm.

Councillor Kane stressed to the Committee that a 7.5 ton weight limit is required as these additional vehicle movements threaten the well-being of the village.

It was **agreed** that a sub-committee be set up consisting of County Councillor Richard Thake, District Councillor Ian Moody, with Councillors Mike Kane and Russell Green. It was **agreed** that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Caroline Tinner should also be invited to join the group.

6. TO DISCUSS THE LIGHTING FROM VALLEY ROAD TO THE HIGH STREET:

E008 Councillors noted that the street lighting in the village is switched off at midnight, however the pathway leading from the High Street to Valley Road only has one lamp post and this area is very dark. It was **agreed** that this matter should be included on the meeting agenda with C.Councillor Richard Thake.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

E009 Thursday 21st January 2021.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting at 8:26pm

Signed..... Chairman of Environment

Date..... 2020