Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on

**4th July 2023 at 7.pm**

# Present:

Cllrs Turner, Sharkey and Ashton

# In attendance:

Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

**ENV2324/1 Election of Chair**

**Resolved to elect Cllr Turner as Chair of the Environment Committee for the year 23/24.**

**ENV2324/2 Election of Vice Chair**

**Resolved unanimously to appoint Cllr Sharkey as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for the year 23/24.**

# ENV2324/3 Chair’s opening remarks

Cllr Turner welcomed everyone to the committee and thanked fellow councillors for his appointment of chair of the committee.

# ENV2324/4 Approve reasons for absence

**Resolved to accept reasons for absence of Cllrs Wyatt-Millington and Kean.**

# ENV2324/5 Disclosures of interest

Cllr Turner declared an interest as the recent former chair of Baildon Horticultural Society.

# ENV2324/6 Minutes of the previous meeting

**Resolved to approve the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 14th February 2023.**

# ENV2324/7 Clerk’s report

None

# ENV2324/8 Public participation

It was raised that the land owned by the Moravian Church on Browgate was in need of tidying and upkeep.

**Action – Deputy Clerk to seek a contact at the Moravian Church to raise this issue with.**

An update on the Baildon reservoir was sought.

Cllr Sharkey advised that Cllr Dixon was leading on the issue and keeping a close eye on any developments.

Cllr Turner confirmed that, as new Chair of Environment, he will consult with Cllr Dixon as to the current position.

A Baildon Litter Code was discussed. This would be an initiative whereby businesses are asked to join up. This would be a way to hold businesses responsible for their land. Joining the code would of course be voluntary and the only sanction would be public opinion.

Cllr Turner asked that details of this scheme be emailed to the Council.

**ENV2324/9 Important Information from Councillors and Staff**

Cllr Ashton raised that certain benches on coach road had been destroyed and the same needs removing as soon as possible.

Action – Cllr Ashton to send the Deputy Clerk details of a contact for removal so that the Deputy Clerk can arrange the same.

**ENV2324/10 Appointment Representatives to External Organisations**

**Resolved to appoint Cllr Ashton as the committee representative for Friends of the Earth**.

It was noted that there needs to be more clarity on what BTC can actually do in order to assist Friends of the Earth.

# ENV2324/11 To consider current Planning applications on CBMDC website and to agree actions (see planning4Bradford.com).

No comments or objections.

# ENV2324/12 Bracken Hall Countryside Centre

The BHCC managers report was received and noted.

Cllr Turner noted that the lack of volunteers is perhaps the most pressing issue BHCC faces at the moment as they are vital to the running (and opening) of the centre. The lack of volunteers is currently felt by many organisations across Baildon.

Cllr Turner advised that he believes a full review of BHCC would be of great benefit to all involved.

**Resolved that:**

* **The BTC Environment Committee will begin the process of a full review of the approach and philosophy of BHCC with a view to improving and resolving any issues.**
* **To form a BHCC review working group to consider framework for strategic review made up of the Environment Committee members. This working group will then extend and co-opt / invite other stakeholders into the fold as the review develops.**

The issue of the incomplete flooring in the classroom was discussed.

**Resolved that the flooring in the classroom be completed as soon as possible (ideally by the end of August). The operations budget is already delegated to the Clerk / BHCC Manager.**

The ongoing issue of the inadequate heating (and possibly, the electrical supply) was discussed.

**Resolved to delegate the £3000 in BHCC electrical work reserves to the BHCC manager (in full consultation with the Clerk and Chair of the Environment Committee) in order to explore and implement improvements to the heating (and electricity supply if necessary) of the centre ahead of winter. To be completed by the end of September 2023.**

The need to revisit how BTC can assist in the recruitment of volunteers was discussed. It was considered whether this could possibly be reviewed at an upcoming Full Council or perhaps in consultation with Baildon Link who hold volunteer events.

# ENV2324/13 Baildon Horticultural Society

The invoice and report from BHS were considered.

BHS sought to remove an external hedge and fence but there was discussions as to whether the horticultural society should be removing hedges.

It was discussed whether the fence could be removed but the hedge left as it is and cut back. The gate was also surplus to requirements so could also be removed. A decision was not required immediately given the works would not be undertaken until later in the year.

**Action – Cllr Turner to consult with the relevant parties in order to illicit a resolution and revised costings will be brought to the next meeting.**

# ENV2324/14 Playable Places - Jenny Lane Play Area

An updated report was received and noted from Bradford Council.

It was noted that the committee are disappointed with the seemingly inadequate progress and it appeared that there is deviation from what was originally proposed by Bradford Council.

**Resolved that the Jenny Lane working group be reformed (Cllr Sharkey, Peter Ashton and Cllr Debbie Davies) who will report back the current issues to Full Council on 24th July.**

# ENV2324/15 Committee Budget

**Resolved to delegate the following budget lines to the Clerk:**

* **Baildon Green and Clean**
* **Baildon in Bloom**
* **Grit Bins**

The 23/24 budget was noted.

# ENV2324/16 Promotional Opportunities / Items for Future Agenda

* Bracken Hall Countryside Centre
* Baildon Horticultural Society
* Footpaths
* Friends of the Earth
* Jenny Lane
* Baildon Litter Code proposal

**ENV2324/17 Next Meeting Date**

7th November 2023

Town Clerk Tel: 07938 062814 Email: clerk@baildontowncouncil.gov.uk