

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLVEY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN WOLVEY BAPTIST CHAPEL ON
WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: John Hardman (Chairman); Parish Councillors Richard Hawcutt and Adrian Warwick, Ruth Buswell, Pete Hopkins, Chris Kenrick, Linda Lakin and Clare Nixon

In attendance: Councillor John Hawkins
 Jackie Essex - Clerk
 5 Members of the public

Apologies: None

17/014 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting. He informed those present that although Councillor Hawkins had been invited to speak at this meeting, he could not vote. Any recommendations from this committee would, in any event, be reported to the parish council for approval.

17/015 Declarations of Interest

None

17/016 Working Arrangements

The Chairman outlined the following current working arrangements which had been agreed with the parish council:

- (a) All requests for the purchase of materials were to be made to the Clerk;
- (b) All orders would be passed to the Parish Clerk by the Chairman of WEC;
- (c) Any requests for the purchase of small items would be made by the Chairman of WEC to the Clerk for approval, at the Clerk's discretion. Any approved items would be reimbursed at the next meeting of the Wolvey Parish Council;
- (d) WEC had authority to manage those works listed in the annual or bi-monthly List of Approved Works;
- (e) Any requests for additional works, not included on either list, would be made by the Chairman of WEC to the parish council for approval;
- (f) WEC would be responsible for monitoring of its budget.

RESOLVED that the above arrangements be noted.

17/017 Trust Status

The committee considered whether to investigate applying for trust status which would enable them to operate independently and explore funding opportunities.

Councillor Warwick had approached the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to enquire if they would be interested but due to funding cuts, they were no longer in a position to assist.

Councillor Warwick confirmed that the parish council would support, in principle, any application for trust status and would look to meeting any reasonable financial costs in establishing a trust, provided all appropriate procedures and safeguards were in place.

Members also discussed issues such as liability and financial risk, particularly in relation to trustees.

Members felt that the effectiveness of the existing arrangements needed to be determined before applying for trust status. In the meantime, further enquiries could be made into establishing a trust, including liaising with local groups and organisations which already had trust status.

RESOLVED that the existing arrangements continue for a period of six months, during which time initial enquiries be made into costs and what was involved in establishing a trust.

17/018 To review existing work arrangements

This item was dealt with under minute no. 17/016 – Working Arrangements.

17/019 Health and Safety Requirements

Councillor Hawcutt confirmed that he had received the risk assessments from WEG.

John Hardman, Ruth Buswell, Clare Nixon, Councillor Hawcutt and Councillor Warwick would meet on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.30pm in Wolvey Baptist Chapel to discuss health and safety issues.

Councillor Warwick confirmed that approved works could continue at the Wetland. The trees which were a danger to the public had been removed and the area which posed a danger had been cordoned off.

In response to operating arrangements, Clare Nixon and Ruth Buswell confirmed that:

- (i) the name of the person supervising any particular task was identified on the work sheet;
- (ii) volunteers never worked alone;
- (iii) mobile phones were always taken on site.

It was agreed that the GPS location of the Wetland should be included on the work sheets, which could be given to the Emergency Services in the event of an accident.

Councillor Hawcutt was obtaining quotes for the works identified in the tree survey. The fungus affecting several trees in the area had not been identified. It was suggested that Pete Hopkins take photographs and enquiries be made to try and identify it.

The Chairman would circulate copies of the tree survey to WEC members for information.

Councillor Warwick stressed that the parish council was grateful to WEG volunteers for all their hard work at the Wetland.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm