

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLVEY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN WOLVEY BAPTIST CHAPEL ON
WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019 at 8.00pm

Present: John Hardman (Chairman), Ruth Buswell, Pete Hopkins, Chris Kenrick, Linda Lakin, Clare Nixon and Adrian Warwick.

In attendance: Jackie Essex – Clerk

Apologies: Richard Hawcutt

30/19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31/19 Financial Monitoring

The latest budget monitoring report was circulated and noted.

32/19 Work Schedule

The work schedule for February/March was circulated and agreed.

33/19 Wolvey Environmental Scheme Projects

The Chairman reported that in the event of the Wetland Trust being agreed, consideration would need to be given to village tasks which were currently undertaken by WEG, including watering of baskets, planting of bulbs, Rugby in Bloom entries and maintenance of the Square. With the exception of maintenance of the Square, WEG were willing to continue with these tasks, subject to the agreement of the parish council. This would require the continuation of this Committee to oversee these projects.

It was reported that several slabs in the Square were loose and would require re-fixing. Enquires would be made with Warwickshire County Council Highways over responsibility for the slabs.

The Clerk would contact Warwickshire County Council Highways for permission for WEG members to install wooden stakes in the grass verges along Bulkington Road on Sunday 24 February 2019 to offer some protection for daffodils.

34/19 Health and Safety

The recent meeting with a representative from the parish council's insurance company at the Wetland was very useful. One issue arising out of this meeting was a recommendation for further signage.

Three different methods of providing an anti-slip surface on the boardwalk would be investigated.

35/19

Trust Status

With regard to the issue over the parish council having the right to veto any trustee which it considered unsuitable, the Charity Commission had replied that it did not have the resources to provide advice on this matter. Advice received from Warwickshire CAVA was that the parish council did not have the right to veto trustees. The parish council's solicitor had, however, advised the parish council that it should have the means to veto any trustee which it deemed unsuitable for the role in order to protect the future of the Wetland. It was, therefore, suggested by the parish council that the lease could include a clause which would allow the parish council to terminate the lease at any time in the event that it considered any trustee to be unsuitable for the role. The parish council felt that this would be an appropriate safeguarding mechanism for the future protection of the Wetland.

Work was continuing on the preparation of the Trust Constitution. The parish council could appoint an associate member to sit on the Trust – however, this appointee would not be a trustee and would not have any voting rights.

The lease would include a list of parish council assets which would require the approval of the parish council prior to any works being carried out.

WEC requested that the lowest nominal rent be charged for the lease. Councillor Warwick confirmed that under the parish council's constitution, the Trust would need to apply for an annual community grant from the parish council.

The Chairman was requested to obtain quotes for legal work on behalf of WEG to be submitted to the Clerk for approval by the parish council.

The Chairman reported that he would circulate a letter requesting the parish council to consider the setting up of a Trust to WEC members for comment, prior to formally submitting it to the Clerk.

Councillor Warwick thanked the Chairman for all his hard work on this issue.

36/19

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 8.00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm