**WIVENHOE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of Environment Committee meeting held on 11 October 2021 at 7.30pm **Chair Approved**

**Present**: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Luxford-Vaughan, Cllr Maltby, Cllr Wenaden (arrived during the course of the meeting), Cllr Aldis, J Beighton-Emms (Town Clerk) and one member of the public

**Public questions;** None

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| PART A |

# E/10.21/01 Apologies for absence; Cllr Boughton

# E/10.21/02 Declarations of interest; None

# E/10.21/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021; The minutes of this meeting were proposed by Cllr Maltby, seconded by Cllr Evans and approved by all as an accurate record of proceedings.

# E/10.21/04 Update from the Chair; Cllr Evans reported that signs have been erected notifying the public of repairs to the existing footpath at Keelers Lane, past the fishing lake. There is flooding in the area which means that some areas are submerged and people are diverted to allow them to walk around the perimeter. The area was not drained over the summer and this has created wetland which is now home to lots of wildlife.

There has been discussion to leave the wetland as it is and to permanently

divert the footpath. This makes sense also because of the blind bend on

Keelers Lane which would be avoided. The is being referred to Highways too as

well as ECC Cllr Mark Cory. Communications with ECC are however difficult.

Cllr Aldis suggested that contact is made with the ECC Press Secretary, Mark Godson.

Cllr Evans confirmed that the north of the site will be returned to farmland and the

south will be a nature park. Cllr Aldis suggested that WTC have an input and Cllr

Evans agreed and confirmed that similar conversations will be held with Taylor

Wimpey regards their new development in Wivenhoe.

# E/10.21/05 Tree for Life & Community Orchard

Cllr Maltby reported that she had followed up on the Community Orchard project with

Nick day, CBC, and he will visit Wivenhoe to look at proposed areas. Cllr Luxford-

Vaughan said that Smiths Corner may be used for the Youth Hub. Cllr Evans said that

we could use Smith’s Corner and retain through access. The Town Clerk requested that

the Open Spaces Manager is included in any discussions. Cllr Maltby will share any

areas discussed.

Cllr Maltby explained the Tree for Life project, on which the Biodiversity Group are

involved as well as ECC Cllr Cory. The Biodiversity Group will advise on planting. A

tree can be obtained by anyone who welcomes a new baby and these are planted on

private land only. It is expected that there will be 20-25 trees planted per year.

# E/10.21/06 Appointing non-councillor members

Cllr Aldis suggested that an approach is made to the people who expressed an interest

in getting involved prior to the pandemic. Cllr Evans suggested that we ask what

specific skills they could bring and that we could also approach the 12 volunteers who

are currently assisting Mark Halladay with the Green Spaces project. There is a need

to define what lay members would be expected to do.

# E/10.21/07 KGV Boundary

It was agreed that hedging would be planted along the KGV boundary at De Vere

Lane. Town Clerk to inform the Open Spaces Manager.

# E/10.21/08 Climate Action Planning

Cllr Maltby reported that there had been three meetings with the community when this

committee was formed. From those who expressed an interest three groups were

created- Biodiversity (which has progressed), Energy and Transport.

It was agreed that Cllr Maltby would provide the list of names and a draft email to go to

them to the Town Clerk. Cllr Aldis said that each group should have a councillor on it to

report back to the committee but it would be groups that would be driving the projects

they take on. Separate meetings will be set up once we get a response to the email.

Cllr Maltby said that Transition Town Wivenhoe would also want to be involved.

# E/10.21/09 Energy generation & partnership with community energy companies.

Cllr Evans reported that there will be a follow up meeting regarding heat exchanges on

the KGV Playing Field. He will also follow up with Peter Chisnall who is advising on the

office redevelopment project to understand his current remit and how we can look at

expanding this.

# E/10.21.10 Energy assessments

Cllr Maltby reported that assessments will be done for all council properties. Cllr Evans

explained that this is being done now by Peter Chisnall and that this will be completed

this year.

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# E/10.21.11 E-car charging points

Cllr Maltby reported that she has been working Charge My Street. She would like to put

a proposal to Full Town Council for the installation of two charging points at the WLH

and two at the High Street car park, with the idea being that the project will start on WTC

owned land first. It is not possible to have points at the Cooks Shipyard car park. Cllr

Aldis asked if WTC would be paying for the electricity and Cllr Maltby confirmed that this

would be paid for by Charge My Street and that the points would be installed for free.

The councillors debated what would happen if points needed to be changed and also

how they would be controlled. Cllr Maltby said that she would find out what commitment

was needed. Cllr Luxford-Vaughan suggested a fair user agreement, with maximum use

set at 3 hours. Cllr Aldis suggested that we trial this project in the High Street car park

first – points will later also be installed in the redeveloped yard. WTC would show on the

Charge My Street App as having the charging points. Other local councils have initiated

this project too.

Cllr Evans suggested that Cllr Maltby drafts a proposal once she has further information

on possible issues with managing points at the WLH. Cllr Maltby confirmed that once

the company get the go ahead installation takes 6-8 weeks.

# E/10.21.12 Community Shop

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Cllr Maltby suggested that WTC offer one of the garages in the yard for a recycling

community shop. Cllr Luxford-Vaughan explained that the garages may be offered to an

alternative group or the yard may be blocked off as part of the redevelopment plans.

There would also be storage issues and loss of income.

# E/10.21.13 E-cargo bikes

Cllr Maltby updated the committee on the repair issues with the two bikes. Cllr Evans

will be working with staff to resolve issues with CBC. Cllr Luxford-Vaughan suggested

that WTC offer to buy the bikes if issues continue.

# E/10.21.14 Health & Wellbeing Update.

Cllr Wenaden reported that she would like to promote Philip Road Court. Cllr Luxford-

Vaughan suggested that she contacts ECC Cllr Mark Cory. Cllr Wenaden agreed to look

at the agreement first. Cllr Aldis agreed to attend any meetings with her concerning who

manages the site and contact between the site owner and Tempest Football Club.

Cllr Aldis asked that the council’s aim to be carbon neutral needs to be revisited now

and in 5 years time.

Cllr Aldis suggested that all proposals include the recognition that environmental

impacts must be considered in every decision made by WTC, as agreed in 2019. The

Town Clerk to review CBC agendas for guidance

# E/10.21/15 Date and time of the next meeting; It was agreed that the next meeting would

# be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

# The Chair closed the meeting at 21.15.