

**KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, 19th MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 pm
AT BURTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Atkinson in the Chair

Cllrs R Barraclough, P Cunnington, S Dunford, K Dunn, D Hardcastle, J Hirst, L Holroyd, E Hutchinson, M MacDonald, B Moreton, A Munro, J Paxton and M Sykes.

Apologies were received from Mr Cliffe, Mr Windett, Cllrs Bottomley, Burton, Cooper, Hickey and Sykes, the reasons for which were accepted.

**E68 Apologies and
Declarations of
Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Members noted the minutes of 22nd January 2009.

E69 Minutes

Members discussed the Environment Plan and noted the amendments. Issues raised included:

E70 Environment Plan

Christmas tree socket at Burton Cross – The Clerk requested that members notify her of the method of covering the socket in their villages to see if there is an alternative available to the litter bin used at present for this purpose.

Guidestoops – It was reported that the black paint at the bottom of the restored guidestoop in Kirkheaton was peeling off. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Highways.

Kirkheaton Churchyard a) Wall – It was reported that work on the wall may be carried out in advance of the extensions by the Church, due to the latter being delayed. b) Trees – It was reported that the remaining 2 yew trees were being monitored for growth this spring, and any further work required would be carried out in the autumn.

Biodiversity – The Chairman reported she was to meet with Geoff Keenleyside of the Environment Unit to discuss ways of improving habitats etc. Members were asked to feedback information to her on any sites of interest in their wards.

Pond in Hardcastle Lane, Flockton. It was agreed this needed to be cleaned after the frogs had left.

Lepton Great Wood – It was reported that there was a distinct lack of wildlife and birdsong in the wood. **Resolved:** To write to the landowner, requesting that the Council is permitted to include this area in the work aimed at increasing biodiversity in the area.

Dogley Nature Reserve – It was reported that the area had been improved and the ponds installed last year were still holding water. However, some work was required to the banks.

Healey Greave Wood & Meadow – Cllr MacDonald reported that he had met with Simon Pedley and Neil Windett of the Countryside Unit and identified where work is needed. The information is to be incorporated into a Management Plan.

Village Green Project in Kirkheaton – It was reported that an application form had been completed and further details on the project would be available after the meeting on 8th April.

Resolved: To accept all amendments to the Plan.

Members considered the Committee's budget statement and noted that the amount for in grants exceeded the amount previously allocated for that purpose, but funding was available from the general Environment budget.

**E71 Environment Budget
2008-09**

Resolved: To use the general Environment budget to cover the grant applications, if they were agreed.

The Clerk reported that the requested trees/shrubs for schools were on order and that she would notify members when they had been delivered.

E72 Shrubs & Trees for Schools

The Chairman reported that she was in the process of visiting each school in turn, and where time permitted, gave a presentation to the children to encourage them to take part. She reported that it was hoped to hold the judging and prizegiving on 12th September, but this was a provisional date at present.

**E73 Project Proposals
a) Sunflower Competition**

The Chairman also reported that the bird boxes had been received and examples were on display at the meeting. They were also in the process of being distributed to the schools.

E74 b) Bird Boxes

Members considered the application from Farnley Tyas First School for £700 to purchase school gardening equipment, for use in the new school garden currently under development.

E75 c) Farnley Tyas First School Grant

Resolved: To award £700 to Farnley Tyas First School to purchase gardening equipment.

Members considered the proposal of implementing a planting programme to cover a period of five years, when suitable sites for planting would be identified along with bulbs/flowers suited to the conditions.

E76 d) Planting Programme

Resolved: To adopt a Parish Planting Plan, working in conjunction with Kirklees Environment Unit to identify suitable pieces of land and ownership, with this year's theme being 'Shade and Woodland'.

It was agreed that the planting would be carried out in the autumn. Members were reminded that the Council needed to obtain Licences to Cultivate if the land was owned by Kirklees. The Clerk would apply for these when the planting locations had been identified.

The Clerk reported Kirklees' policy on dog bins. Information was also given on bags. Cllr MacDonald reported that he still had a supply of bags purchased by the Council and agreed to bring them to the next Parish Council meeting.

E77 Dog Fouling/Litter Problems

Resolved: To obtain a list of sweeper routes and details/costs of the litter bins.

Members noted information on highly visible signs etched onto pavements with biodegradable spray paint stating it is an offence to drop litter or not to clean up after their dog.

Resolved: To find out who has the authority to do the spray painting and if there are any restrictions on locations.

Members noted the grant application from Shelley College for £930 to cover the costs of extra safety measures required for the pond areas at the 'Eco' park.

E78 Shelley College Grant Application

Resolved: To award £930 to pay for the extra safety measures required for the pond areas at the 'Eco' park.

Members considered the application from Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (BEG) for funding required for the purchase of a Trackmaster flail machine.

E79 KHCA Grant Application

Resolved: To agree in principle to fund the purchase of the smaller machine from the 2008-09 Environment budget, but to defer the final decision to the next meeting when the details can be discussed with the Association's representative.

Members noted the application from Shepley First School for the purchase of a nestbox and feeding camera.

E80 Shepley First School Grant Application

Resolved: To award £314 for the purchase of a nestbox and feeding camera.

Members noted the grant application for £1,500 to cover the costs of providing a footpath from behind the tennis club to the school. It was reported that members were currently investigating the possibility of obtaining the funding from the Kirklees' safe routes to school budget.

E81 Shepley First School – Footpath Provision

Resolved: To defer a decision on the matter pending receipt of the above information.

Members noted the information with regard to various footpaths, which had been unofficially closed in the Houses Hill area. It was reported that information was currently awaited from Kirklees, to clarify the situation.

E82 Closed Footpaths

Members noted the information provided on parish energy packs.

E83 Parish Energy Packs

Resolved: To defer discussion on the item to the next meeting.

The Clerk reported on a new scheme tax-free bike scheme. It was agreed that information would be circulated to members for consideration.

E84 New Projects

Resolved: To hold the next meeting on 18th June 2009 at 7.30 pm.

E85 Date of Next Meeting

No further items were requested.

E86 Agenda Items

There was no correspondence to report.

E87 Correspondence

The meeting then closed