

**KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, 15th JULY 2010 AT 8.15 pm
AT BURTON VILLAGE HALL**

The following minutes are subject to confirmation of accuracy at the Council meeting on 5th August 2010.

Present: Cllr Atkinson in the Chair

Mr G Cliffe, Cllrs R Barraclough, A Cooper, P Cunnington, S Dunford, D Hardcastle, G Hickey, J Hirst, L Holroyd, A Munro, J Paxton, P Rock, M Sykes and C Whittingham.
Officer in attendance: Mrs A Royle

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| Resolved: To elect Cllr Atkinson as Environment Committee Chairman for the year 2010-11. | E1 Election of Chairman |
| Cllr Whittingham and Cllr Sykes were both nominated to serve as Vice Chairman for the year 2010-11. | E2 Election of Vice Chairman |
| Resolved: To elect Cllr Sykes as Environment Committee Vice Chairman for the year 2010-11. | |
| Resolved: To elect Mr G Cliffe, Mr T Scott (KHCA & Civic Society), Mr N Windett (Kirklees Countryside Manager) and Ms K Woolley onto the Committee as co-optees. | E3 Election of Co-optees |
| Apologies were received from Mr Scott, Mr Windett, R Burton, M MacDonald and B Moreton, the reasons for which were accepted. | E4 Apologies and Declarations of Interest |
| Not Present: Cllrs K Dunn and J Taylor. | |
| The following personal declarations of interest were declared: Cllr R Barraclough in the items on Parish Walks and EPIP Tourism Places, as he is a Director of EPIP; Cllr Sykes in the Parish Walks as he is Vice Chairman of the EPIP LIG. | |
| Cllr Atkinson declared a prejudicial interest in the Parish Walks as she is the Project Manager. She left the meeting whilst this item was discussed by the Committee. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Sykes during that item. | |
| The Clerk advised the members of the new system regarding the inclusion of the public participation item within the meeting, and the implications for Councillors with prejudicial interests. | E5 Public Participation |
| No members of the public were present. | |
| Resolved: To hold all the items in the public session. | E6 Public Admission |
| Members noted the minutes of 18 th March 2010. | E5 Minutes |
| Members noted the completed Environment Plan for 2009/10 and discussed changes and improvements for the forthcoming year. | E6 Environment Plan |
| The following observations were made: a) Historical Heritage (Obj 1) It was suggested that a leaflet is produced for each village, and the information could be obtained from the walks project. | |
| b) Guidestoops (Obj 1) An enquiry was made about progress of the renovation of guidestoops. The Clerk agreed to chase the matter up. | |
| c) Public Transport (Obj 3) Members expressed the view that a Boxing Day service should be available for the whole area. The Clerk was asked to obtain the statistics for the services run last year and to contact Metro about the matter. | |

d) Living Christmas Trees (Obj 5) It was reported that a tree had been planted on the village green at Shelley Park and a discussion took place regarding whether or not this would replace the one previously supplied at the village hall. It was agreed this would be included on the next Parish Council agenda. The Clerk reported that she had made enquiries regarding permission for planting a tree at Lascelles Hall, but was still awaiting a response.

E6 Environment Plan (Cont'd)

Members noted the financial analysis statement circulated with the papers setting out the current budget situation.

E7 Environment Budget 2010-11

Cllr Atkinson made a verbal report on responses from community organisations received to date and other related issues. It was reported that Mr Jonathan Walker of Colne Valley Garden Centre had accepted the invitation to judge the competition, and that Kate Orme was unable to attend to work with the children. It was agreed that using delegated authority the Clerk would invite Caro Ward to attend and provide a similar session to last year.

**E8 Budget Proposals 2010/11
a) Sunflower Competition/
Environment Fayre**

Publicity of the event was discussed. It was also agreed that the Clerk should use delegated authority and send details of the event to The Pulse, Radio Leeds, the Examiner and Kirklees to try and publicise the event as widely as possible.

The problem of dog waste on the streets and recreation grounds was noted and various possible solutions were discussed.

E9 b) Dog Waste

Resolved: To investigate the possibility and logistics of installing a dog waste bag dispenser on one recreation ground in each of the villages, and in the meantime, to consider running a competition for the schoolchildren asking them to design a poster highlighting the dangers to children from dog waste. The Committee to cover the printing costs of printing the winning poster from each school.

Resolved: To consult the public at the Environment Fayre on how the issue should be tackled.

Members discussed the Parish Energy Training project, as described in Form No 05-2010, which involved sponsoring 12 Shelley College students to undertake City & Guilds Energy Awareness training.

E10 c) Parish Energy Training Project

Resolved: To recommend that the Council proceeds with this project as a pilot on the basis that the students must reside within the Parish area to be eligible, and that if it is successful, it is extended to students from King James School next year. The funding for the project will be covered by the Sustainable Energy budget.

It was agreed that the travel and subsistence element of the funding would be paid out on presentation of appropriate receipts and up to the amount agreed in the form. Mr Cliffe wished it recording that he was not in favour of this project.

Cllr Atkinson left the meeting and Cllr Sykes took over the chair.

Cllr Sykes gave a very detailed verbal report on the Parish Walks project, including progress to date and he also distributed copies of proposed leaflets to illustrate his report. The Clerk reported that the Holmfirth Tourist Information Centre had enquired about the possibility of stocking the leaflets and one member of the public had made a telephone enquiry to the office on the subject.

E11 Parish Walks

Cllr Atkinson returned to the meeting.

Members noted the proposed viewpoints and locations for public seats.

E12 EPIP Tourism Plans

Resolved: To defer further discussion/decision on providing additional public seats to allow further investigation of the sites and related issues.

Members noted the invitation from the BBC regarding inclusion on the Breathing Places website.

E13 BBC Breathing Places Website

Resolved: That the Council accepts the BBC's invitation to be included on the Breathing Places website and the Clerk is delegated to work with the Environment Committee Chairman on the text to be submitted.

Members noted the evaluation report of the course held at the beginning of the growing season. Cllr Atkinson answered questions on it and recommended that the course be repeated next year.

E14 Evaluation of Vegetable Growing Course

Resolved: To repeat the course next year and to investigate holding it at Grange Moor allotments.

Cllr Atkinson made a report on work carried out with conservation groups in the Parish.

E15 Conservation Groups

As a new project Cllr Hardcastle suggested the Committee works on looking at all the walks through Storthes Hall woods, which are not on the definitive map. To do this, it will be necessary to identify the start, finish and exact route of each walk. At the moment, this has not been done, and it appears to be rather a complex piece of work, but would be a very worthwhile achievement and of benefit to many local people.

E16 New Projects for 2010-11

Members noted the meeting dates for the Council year as follows: 16th September, 18th November, 20th January 2011 and 17th March 2011.

E17 Meeting Dates for 2010-11

Mr Cliffe gave his apologies for the meeting on 16th September.

Members were requested to let the Clerk have full details for any further agenda items by 3rd September.

E18 Agenda Items

The Clerk reported on information regarding grant-funding available from the Heritage Lottery received from Mr Windett. She was asked to include this matter as an agenda item on the next meeting.

E19 Correspondence & Information

The Clerk also reported receipt of correspondence from a local landowner regarding the problem of a fungus called Phytophthora, which is deadly to a range of plants. The landowner was concerned about it being unwittingly spread by walkers, riders and animals. Detailed written information was distributed to the members present.

Cllr Atkinson reported on an incident of slurry being discharged by a local farmer, which had been reported to the Environment Agency and investigations were being made. As this was not the first time it had happened, the Clerk was asked to use her delegated authority to express the Council's serious concern in support of the previously lodged complaints.

The meeting then closed