

# RIPPONDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 8.00pm

The Clerk welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

**Present:** - Cllr Carter, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Johnson, Cllr McCarley, Cllr Moran, Mr Fisher (REG),  
Mr Sofield (BIB)

### 1. To elect a Chairman for 2018/2019

**ENV2018-01 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr Moran and seconded by Cllr McCarley that Cllr Hunt be elected Chairman of the Environment Committee for 2018/19.

Cllr Hunt took the chair

### 2. To appoint co-opted members for 2018/2019

**ENV2018-02 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Moran that a representative from Rishworth Environmental Group, Barkisland in Bloom, Soyland in Bloom and Ripponden in Bloom be co-opted members of the Environment Committee for 2018/2019, and that Mr Lister (Together Housing) and Ms Mitchell (CMBC) be partners of the Committee.

### 3. To accept apologies for absence and lateness

Absence – Ms Mitchell (CMBC), Mr Winrow (SIB), Mr Hart (RIB)

### 4. To discuss Terms of Reference of the Environment Committee

**ENV2018-03 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr McCarley that the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee should be as previous:

- 1) To handle items passed from the main Council associated with horticulture, the environment and any lands that the Parish Council owns, rents or manages
- 2) To manage the annual Michaelmas Show and Garden Competition
- 3) To enter the Yorkshire In Bloom competition for Ripponden
- 4) To work in partnership with Calderdale Council, Together Housing and local community groups over horticulture and environmental issues
- 5) To manage and maintain the Councils burial grounds and consult with local residents in particular regarding the Ebenezer Graveyard
- 6) The Committee is made up of elected Councillors, co-opted members of the community and representatives from Calderdale Council and Together Housing. No Councillor, who is a member of the co-opted community groups, can hold the chairmanship of the Committee. They can be members of the committee but must declare a prejudicial interest.
- 7) To examine the provision of allotments
- 8) To manage environment issues

### 5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**ENV2018-04 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Moran that as far as the Meeting was aware the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### 6. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Clerk also provided an update on the percussion tap for outside the library. Calderdale Council advised that the tap was scheduled to be installed on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June. There was still confusion over the security box, but the officer was to check this and get back to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to monitor the situation.

The Clerk reported on several issues referred to the Environment Committee from Full Council. A Councillor had raised concerns about the litter at the top end of Shaw Lane. Cllr Hunt advised that he walked regularly on the lane and didn't think there was a problem and Mr Fisher agreed. Cllr Hunt agreed to monitor the situation and report back if there was an issue.

Secondly the shortage of bins near the Alma Inn, this was a particular issue for walkers with dogs since there is nowhere to put dog waste bags in the vicinity. The Clerk was asked to refer this to Ms Mitchell at Calderdale Council to see if this could be looked into.

The Clerk reported on a resident complaint concerning the dog waste bag dispenser at Barkisland. It appeared that dog owners were using this to deposit their used bags in. Mr Sofield advised that the dispenser was in a bad state of repair and hadn't been filled for quite some time. Mr Fisher advised that the Rishworth dispenser was in quite good condition. The Clerk was asked to obtain photographs of the Barkisland and Mill Fold dispensers and look into costings for replacements.

The Clerk advised the Meeting of a resident complaint regarding the condition of the Victorian lampposts at Sandyfoot, Barkisland. The Clerk was asked to speak with Ms Mitchell to see if her team could re-paint the lampposts. The Clerk was also asked to make enquiries with Highway Services regarding replacement LED lighting. Would this affect the Victorian lampposts at Sandyfoot and by the pack horse bridge in Ripponden?

The Clerk informed the meeting of concerns raised by a family who had a family plot in Ebenezer Graveyard. The lady had been recently and the graveyard had been quite overgrown. Cllr Naylor had been up and taken photographs, which showed that the main walking areas had been cut, but around the graves the grass was very overgrown. The gates were also in need of a repaint. Cllr Moran volunteered to speak with Mr Winrow of Soyland in Bloom to see how many grass cuts would be done this year and ask what work could be done to make the graveyard more presentable. Options discussed were earlier grass cutting maybe starting May rather than June, strimming between the graves and the use of weed killer. She will report back at the next meeting. Cllr Moran also said that she would ask Mr Winrow if he knew of anyone who could rub down and re-varnish the gates and if so obtain a quote.

Cllr Carter reported on the leak in the steps at the Memorial Garden. It had been repaired 12 months ago but had started leaking badly. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Clay at Calderdale Council to see if he could arrange its repair. Cllr Carter also asked if the Clerk could contact Mr Lister at Together Housing to see if he could look at the land at Brig Royd facing the school. The sustainable planting had died off and the area is in need of a tidy up The Clerk was also asked to speak with Ms Mitchell about weed spraying of the footpaths around Ripponden and Barkisland.

Cllr Moran provided an update on the refurbishment of the Soyland Telephone box; residents are to work with Soyland in Bloom and are currently speaking with the Rochdale Road group about their experiences. It is hoped that the telephone box will become a local museum and information box.

## **7. Members Reports**

Cllr Moran on behalf of Soyland in Bloom reported that the group had planted up the two new tubs purchased from a grant from the Parish Council. The others are to be replanted soon, due to the bad winter many of the plants had perished. The group have placed large stones on the grass verges at Lane Head to prevent large vehicles driving over the grass and Hob Lane is to be cut and cleared in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Moran asked if it would be possible to use the £107 already awarded to the group for the Telephone box on plants. The Meeting advised that this wasn't possible since the grant had been provided for a specific purpose, but the group could apply for a further grant.

Cllr McCarley asked if refurbishing the numerous Milestones around the Parish could be a new project for the Committee. The Clerk advised that a list would need to be compiled of the Milestone with points of reference to enable her to check if any had listed building status before

any work could be done. Cllr McCarley volunteered to compile the list and liaise with the Clerk to progress.

Mr Sofield on behalf of Barkisland in Bloom reported that he still had two of the tubs to be refurbished and this would be done before winter. All the beds and tubs in Barkisland had been replanted for the summer primarily with geraniums. The benches are to be rubbed down and repainted during the summer. Mr Sofield raised the issue of the Gateway at the crossroads with Norland which he had not been able to cut back for a considerable time. The house owner on the left hand side had volunteered to maintain the grass there but the right hand side was in need of strimming. Mr Sofield had been unable to find a gardener prepared to do the work even though the group had resources to pay. Cllr Johnson advised that he knew of a potential gardener and would make enquiries. Cllr Carter also mentioned that her son in law may be able to assist if Cllr Johnsons contact was unable to do the work.

Mr Fisher on behalf of Rishworth Environmental Group reported that the group had tidied up and replanted the Jubilee Garden. The tubs at Heathfield Rise have been planted up but the church and Slitheroe Bridge still needed to be done. Cllr Carter suggested that the Cinnamon Lounge may well sponsor the tubs at Slitheroe Bridge and Mr Fisher said that he would look at approaching the management. The group are looking to refurbish the stone path at Jubilee Garden this year and may need to ask for a grant from the Environment Committee towards the project. Mr Fisher reported that the area around the notice board at Rishworth New Road was overgrown and needed to be cut back to gain access.

Cllr Johnson reminded the Committee that the purchase of generic small sponsorship plaques was to be investigated. The Clerk said that she would speak with Briggs Priestley to see if this as something that they could help with.

Cllr Hunt advised that he has agreed to repair the small plaque on the St Johns estate bench, but didn't feel confident of doing the rubbing down. Mr Fisher agreed to take a look and see if he could repair the plaque. Cllr Hunt also reported that the metal bars steps on the bank of grass at Hill Croft were an obstruction to people with prams and wondered why they had been erected. The Clerk was asked to speak with Ms Mitchell to see if her team could take a look and see if they could be removed.

## **8. Yorkshire in Bloom**

The Clerk reported that the white planting had been done around the village and the hanging baskets were now in place. She had also e-mail Community groups and Ms Mitchell to see if they could provide a report for the portfolio. Cllr Carter advised that she had been speaking with a representative of Ripponden in Bloom and the group will endeavour to have some of their workers available to speak with the judges on the day. The Clerk said that she would e-mail the judges for an approximate time for their visit.

Cllr Hunt advised that he would try and be available to meet the judges and the Clerk was asked to speak with Ms Mitchell to see if she too could attend.

The Clerk was asked to see if there was a template for a poster to welcome the judges to Ripponden that could be displayed in shop windows.

The Meeting agreed that two tickets should be purchased for the awards ceremony at a cost of £35 per ticket.

## **9. Michaelmas Show**

Discussion took place as to whether the Show should continue since it had not been well attended over the past few years. It was agreed that this year's should go ahead with the current format but that the Committee should look into a total revamp for 2019. The Clerk was asked to circulate last year's schedule to Committee members for suggestions for the categories. It was agreed that this should also be sent to Mrs Bell, Mrs Marns and Mrs Holden for their input.

Cllr Johnson also agreed to visit the school with Mrs Marns if possible to encourage pupils to enter.

**ENV2018-05 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr McCarley and seconded by Cllr Carter that the Committee looks into a revamp of the Michaelmas Show for 2019 and that this should be an agenda item October/November 2018 to allow plenty of time.

#### **10. Refurbishment of benches**

The Clerk suggested that due to the lateness of the meeting, the Committee may wish to hold this Agenda item and the next item over to the next meeting. She also felt that both should be combined into a review of street furniture project.

**ENV2018-06 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr Moran and seconded by Cllr McCarley that the refurbishment of benches and notice boards be combined into a review of street furniture project for 2018/19.

#### **11. Replacement Notice Boards**

As above.

#### **12. To approve spending from the Environment Committee**

**ENV2018-07 Resolved in a motion** by Cllr McCarley and seconded by Cllr Moran that the Committee approves the expenditure for:

2 x Yorkshire in Bloom Awards Ceremony tickets	£70.00
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#### **16. To arrange the date of the next meeting**

It was agreed as Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 at 7.00pm

**The meeting closed at 9.35pm**