



Minutes of the meeting of
Environment Working Group
Tuesday 5th November 2024, at 7.30pm
At Thanet House, London Road, Stroud GL5 2AD

Present

Cllrs Brooks, Hillary (Chair), Horrocks, Jacobson, Oldman and Saunders

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy CEO/Deputy Town Clerk), Pete Bradshaw (Green Spaces Manager, (GSM)).

1. Apologies

Cllrs Fenton (Personal)

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Councillor Oldman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13. The committee **resolved** to allow Cllr Oldman to be involved in the debate, but not the vote.

3. Questions from members of the public

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee on 17th September 2024 were **approved** and signed by the Chair.

5. To receive the Green Spaces Manager Report

The Green Spaces Manager presented his report and answered questions put to him from councillors.

The Chair thanked the Green Spaces Manager for his report.

6. To receive the Budget Monitoring report to end of September 2024

The committee discussed the progress of the Environment Projects and the new programmed approach to works.

The committee noted the cemetery income had surpassed expectations and queried the use of the remaining space. The Deputy DEO gave the background and drew the attention of the committee to the previous reports on the matter. These will be shared to ensure members are fully aware of the plans approved in 2023.

The report was received.

7. To approve a draft budget for recommendation to Council

The committee requested that an additional £2,500 was added to the Environment Grant Fund to give a total of £7,500 for 2025-26.

Action: CEO to redraft in line with recommended increase to Environment Grant Fund

8. To approve a response to the Law Commission Consultation on Burials and Cremations via National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

The committee **approved** the answers in line with the recommendations.

Action: Deputy CEO to include in 2025-26 budget

9. To receive a report on the Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV)

The Committee noted the repair cost versus the cost of a second-hand vehicle. The committee **approved** the repair to the RTV as recommended in the report.

10. To approve the installation of a gate at the Leazes Play Area

The committee **approved** the recommendation for a new gate.

11. To approve the installation of a gate at Bisley Old Road Allotment Site

The committee **approved** the recommendation for a new gate.

12. To note the remaining funds in the Environment Fund

13. To discuss the grant application received for the Environment Fund

Common Soil – Seed Bank

The committee discussed the merits of the application. Due to the remaining funds available the committee were able to award £1,425.00 to the project. The committee asked the Deputy CEO to invite the applicant to speak at a future committee meeting, to give an update on the project.

The committee **approved** a grant of £1,425.00

Action: The Deputy CEO was asked to inform the applicant and extend the invitation to speak as outlined.

14. To resolve to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting

No members of the public or press were present.

15. To review the tenders for new play equipment at Park Gardens

The committee **approved** the tenders for two organisations to go forward to public consultation as per the CEO recommendation.

Action: The Deputy CEO to organise a public consultation with the Community Development team and Programme Manager.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chair

Date