

**KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, 15th MARCH 2012 AT 8.00 pm
AT BURTON VILLAGE HALL**

The following minutes were confirmed and adopted at the Council meeting on 5th April 2012, with the exception of Min E61, which has been referred to the Council (Planning/GP) meeting on 19th April 2012 to be reconsidered.

Present: Cllr Munro in the Chair

Mr Geoff Keenleyside (Kirklees Environment Officer), Mr T Scott (KHCA/BEG), Cllrs B Armer, R Barraclough, P Brook, R Burton, P Cunnington, K Dunn, S Dunford, D Hardcastle, J Hirst, I Lumb, P Pankhurst, J Paxton, M Pitts, R Thomas, C Whittingham and B Wightman.

In attendance: Mrs R Perry and Mrs A Royle

Apologies were received from Mr N Windett, Cllrs S Beresford, A Cooper, S Dunford and M Sykes, the reasons for which were accepted.

**E55 Apologies and
Declarations of
Interest**

Cllr R Barraclough declared a personal interest in the Farnley Tyas Mill item as he knows the owners.

There were no members of the public present.

**E56 Public
Participation**

Resolved: To hold all the items in the public session.

E57 Public Admission

Members received advice from Mr Geoff Keenleyside, Kirklees Environment Officer on installing bat boxes. Mr Keenleyside explained the habitat that bats prefer to live in and suggested that the Council look strategically at where the boxes are located. Good locations would be Dogley Nature Reserve, Thunderbridge and Queensway in Kirkburton. The land owner's permission must be obtained before the boxes are put up, as bats are an endangered species and boxes cannot be taken down once they are being used. Boxes can be fitted to houses if the home owner is willing. Mr Keenleyside suggested that woodcrete boxes are the best sort to use, as they are the most durable and different boxes can be obtained for different species. All boxes put up will need mapping as to their location and it is best to put 4 or 6 boxes together in a suitable area. Currently there are no bat boxes registered in the Parish Council area.

E58 Bat Boxes

Resolved: To note the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 19th January 2012.

E59 Minutes

Members noted the year's budget and latest financial statement dated 5th March 2012 covering the financial years 2011-12 and 2012/13.

E60 Budgets

Cllr Hirst entered the meeting.

Members reconsidered grant application for £1,185 to contribute towards the purchase of additional hanging baskets for Kirkburton & Highburton, deferred from the last meeting. The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the KHCA which stated the baskets were for the Burton in Bloom event rather than the Diamond Jubilee, as indicated on the form. It was noted that each village was able to apply for up to £500 to support their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. A proposal was made to refuse the application as there seemed to be a duplication, to which an amendment was made that £685 is awarded, ie the amount over and above the Queen's Diamond Jubilee grant. A recorded vote was taken with the following result:

**E61 Funding
Proposals
a) Kirkburton &
Highburton
Community
Association**

For: Cllrs Hardcastle and Munro.

Against: Cllrs Armer, Brook, Cunnington, Hirst, Lumb, Pankhurst, Paxton, Pitts, Thomas, Whittingham and Wightman.

Abstentions: Cllrs R Barraclough and Burton.

A vote was then taken on the proposal:

Resolved: To refuse the application for £1,185 to contribute towards the purchase of additional hanging baskets in Kirkburton & Highburton.

The minutes are subject to confirmation of accuracy and adoption by Council on 5th April 2012.

Members received an update on the project and agreed on the Parish Council's involvement.
Members also considered nominating 2 members to sit on the Management Committee

b) Farnley Tyas Mill

Resolved: Cllr R Barraclough and Cllr P Cunnington were nominated to sit on the Management Committee.

Resolved: To continue to be involved in the project.

Members considered purchasing and planting a tree on The Green (behind the War Memorial) subject to the landowners' approval and public consultation with local residents.

c) 'Live' Christmas tree in Thurstonland

Resolved: That the Clerk obtains landowner's permission to plant the tree and organises the purchase and planting of the sapling under delegated authority, as far as the regulations allow.

Members agreed the notes of the Tree Working Party meeting held on 20th February 2012 as an accurate record.

E62 Fruit Trees Project (No 2011-04)

Cllr Wightman reported that the planting is going well and is on schedule.

Members discussed the possibility of running a course on tree aftercare in approximately 1 year's time.

Resolved: To run a course on tree aftercare in 4 year's time when the project is completed.

Members discussed putting the contract out for supplying trees/bushes to tender in May/June and delegating the Clerk to deal with the process and take the necessary decisions. Members also considered the specification.

Resolved: To delegate the Clerk to deal with the tendering process in May/June, as far as the regulations permit.

Resolved: To agree the specification as contained within the meeting notes.

Members discussed selling off any unused but committed trees to communities at a reduced rate at the end of the Council term.

Resolved: To sell off any unused trees to communities at a reduced rate at the end of the Council term.

Members considered nominations from any committee members who wished to join the Fruit Trees Working Party.

Resolved: To elect Cllr Hardcastle and Cllr Pankhurst onto the Fruit Trees Working Party.

The Clerk reported that she had met with the Rector, Mr Julian Faulkner and Cllr Sykes and that the area being considered was a large area and an excellent site for an allotment garden. A lot of work had already been undertaken to prepare the land. The issue of parking, water supply and other practicalities were discussed. The Rector agreed to raise this matter with the Church Council at the next meeting.

E63 Proposed New Allotment Garden by Shepley Methodist Church

Resolved: To put this matter on a future agenda, as appropriate.

The Administrative Support Officer reported that she had attended a meeting at Horticulture in Overton, Wakefield with Cllr Paxton and Cllr Wightman. The owner of Horticulture has agreed to be a judge for the competition and has also agreed to help write the rules and give help and guidance in setting the competition up.

E64 Best Kept Allotment Competition

Resolved: To grant delegated authority to the Administrative Support Officer to progress the project as required.

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- The Clerk reported that she had met with the course organiser. The course will run from 14th April – 23rd June every fortnight from 10am – 12 noon, excluding bank holidays. The organiser will provide seeds and seedlings. Participants will need to provide compost, tools and pots. A gazebo will also need to be provided in case of adverse weather. The Clerk also reported that the Council needed to make an area available for planting during the course, and that the course organiser had requested permission to enter plots during the course to demonstrate aspects of best practice. The Clerk confirmed that all allotment holders were being invited to book places on the course.
- E65 **Vegetable Gardening Workshop**
- It was reported that the Bee Hive project is still being considered but there are a number of factors that need to be addressed before a project form can be completed.
- E66 **New Projects**
- Members noted the Environment Plan subject to the inclusion of items from this meeting.
- E67 **Environment Plan 2011-12**
- Resolved:** To approve the Environment Plan 2011-12, subject to the inclusion of any relevant items from this meeting.
- Resolved:** To hold the next meeting on 21st June 2012.
- E68 **Date of Next Meeting**
- Members were asked to supply the Clerk with full details and information of all items required on the next agenda by 8th June 2012.
- E69 **Items for the Next Agenda**
- There was no correspondence to report.
- E70 **Correspondence / Information**
- The meeting then closed.