

MINUTES of the Environmental Service Committee held online Monday 15th June 2020 at 5.30pm

Membership:

Cllr Jeffries (Copheap)	*	Cllr Nicklin (West)	*
Cllr Fraser (West) Chairman	*	Cllr Ridout (West)	*
Cllr Fryer (Broadway) Vice-Chairman	*	Cllr Spender (Broadway)	*
Cllr Macfarlane (West)	AB	Nigel Linge (co-opted member)	*

Key: * Present A Apologies AB Absent

In attendance:

Officers: Tom Dommett, Assistant Town Clerk, Stuart Legg, Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Judith Halls, Office Manager

Attendees: 3 attendees

ES/20/001 Apologies for Absence
No apologies for absence were received.

ES/20/002 Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were received under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

ES/20/003 Chairman's Announcements
Cllr Fraser asked the committee to put forward suggestions for where the snake of painted stones outside St Lawrence Chapel could be safely moved to when the coronavirus pandemic was over.

ES/20/004 Public Participation
Cllr Fraser read out an email from Amelia ep Ellis regarding the rewilding and blue hearts campaign.

"I have spoken to the Town Council previously about the Blue Campaign and the benefits of rewilding - I don't want to bore you all with repeating myself about the money the council would save and the increased biodiversity etc

A number of people on the Sustainable Warminster facebook page have commented how much they've enjoyed seeing the uncut verges and grassy areas during lockdown. We realise that was a result of the pandemic and not planned, but I think we've all been encouraged to hear that Wiltshire Council

Signed.....Date.....

is changing its mowing regime and trialling wildflower areas, and also reviewing future policy.

We know Warminster Town Council has been asked by Wiltshire to identify areas currently maintained 9 times a year to 3 times a year, and we'd like to see the town follow County's lead.

I would like to re-iterate again that no-one is proposing rewilding on recreational ground, it is best suited to marginal land.

It seems to me that the most important consideration is how you get the message across to the public effectively, managing expectations, and I do acknowledge this is an issue. The Blue Campaign can help with that - I believe they are working with Bradford - on - Avon Town Council amongst many others. Sustainable Warminster can help with messaging/publicity also.

If a working group is to be established, I'd like to put myself forward to join on behalf of Sustainable Warminster. I have experience of rewilding professionally which hopefully would be of some help. I would recommend asking Wilts Wildlife Trust to join too.

Thank you for listening,
Amelia ap Ellis (Sustainable Warminster)

ES/20/005 Reports from Unitary Authority Members

Cllr Ridout advised the committee that she had forwarded correspondence to everyone from Wiltshire Council about the Blue Hearts Campaign. There have been 5 sites identified and 3 voluntary sites for rewilding in Warminster

ES/20/006 Co-option

Members voted unanimously to co-op Nigel Linge on to the Environmental Services Committee.

ES/20/007 Sweeper Update

Members Noted that Full Council reached an agreement with FS Gibbs for use of their wash down area and for a skip to be located on the Gibbs site. Members further Noted the acquisition of a depot at the Swan Business centre. Negotiations for both are proceeding well.

A Scarab road sweeper is due to be delivered week commencing 22nd June. A driver has been recruited - Noted

The Assistant Clerk advised the committee that the competition to name the sweeper had been undertaken on social media. The winning name for the new sweeper was Basil Brushes.

Members unanimously approved the name for the new Scarab sweeper would be Basil Brushes.

Signed.....Date.....

ES/20/008 Blue Campaign

The Blue campaign promotes the rewilding of our gardens, parks, road verges and school grounds. It suggests that a part of this ground is set aside and left to grow through the summer. A blue heart symbol, made out of recycled materials, is staked in the ground over the area being rewilded.

Members unanimously noted the report and agreed to refer the Blue Campaign to the working group to be set up in item 9.

ES/20/009 Working Groups

Members unanimously approved for the committee to set up a working group to draft policies for services that will fall under the remit of the Environmental Service Committee, for example: grass cutting and litter bins replacement. The working group would consist of Cllrs Fraser, Fryer and Jeffries, Warminster Town Council Officer, Stuart Legg, Nigel Linge and Amelia ap Ellis.

ES/20/010 Communications

ES/20/010.1 Members requested a press release be issued about the new name for the Scarab Sweeper.

ES/20/010.2 Cllr Fraser would be the spokesperson for any item on the agenda should it be required.

Meeting ended: 5.50pm

Signed.....Date.....