



LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 6th January 2021

To: All Members of the Environment & Services Committee:
Councillors Herschy (Chair), Smith-Winnard (Vice-Chair), Bartlett, Davies,
Murdoch, Norman, Parris, Rumsey, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williamson.
(Copies to other Councillors for information)

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Environment & Services Committee** which will be held on **Monday 11th January 2021** commencing at 19:00 hours remotely via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 825 7828 1906

Press and public are cordially invited to attend. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact the clerk on townclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk in advance for the meeting password.

Julie Debbage

Julie Debbage
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

To consider requests for dispensations (must be notified in writing).

- 4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum 15 minutes)**
To receive questions and statements from members of the public as provided for in Standing Orders.
- 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meeting held on 16th November 2020.
- 6. CLERK'S REPORT**
To receive the Clerk's Report on matters outstanding that may not appear on the agenda.
- 7. COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT**
Please see the attached report for consideration.
- 8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**
Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Environment & Services Committee is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".
- 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 19:00hrs either remotely via Zoom or in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP depending on the lifting of social distancing restrictions by central government.

Minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020 19.00 hours remotely via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Herschy (Chair), Smith-Winnard (Vice-Chair) (19:06), Bartlett, Davies, Murdoch, Norman, Parris (19:13), Rumsey, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williamson (19:22).

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk

ES31/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

ES32/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Murdoch – Allotments
Cllr. Sutcliffe – Farmers Market/LARC

ES33/20 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

ES34/20 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present. No issues were raised.

ES35/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record as soon as the social distancing guidelines are relaxed further and normal meetings resume at 11 Corn Square.

ES36/20 CLERK'S REPORT

- Communication has been received from Herefordshire Council regarding s106 funding amounting to £36,177.00 available towards the provision of open space facilities at Ropewalk Avenue and the possibility of an asset transfer. This will be raised on the agenda of the Full Council meeting on 30th November 2020.
- A letter has been received detailing the town council CCTV contribution for 2021/22 of £11,089.34.
- Binit Cardboard Recycling Scheme – a report was requested before the meeting but as the member of staff allocated to oversee the Leominster Scheme has left Binit, a short update was provided. The last skip exchange was 22nd September and it weighed 1.42 tonnes. This will be looked at in more detail before the next meeting.

ES37/20 COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

Committee considered the update report and following discussion they **RESOLVED:**

- To note the report;

MINUTES (AGENDA Item 5)

- To appoint a small Task & Finish Group to investigate the pollution of rivers with soil run off from agricultural activities as highlighted by the Environment Agency. The town council are currently waiting for a response from Balfour Beatty.
- That following a formal complaint by Leominster Town Council to Herefordshire Council regarding permission for removal of trees through the planning process, a meeting was held via Webex to clarify what Herefordshire Council can do about tree conservation and planting in Leominster. Cllr. Marsh, Cllr. Herschy, Herefordshire Council's Tree Officer and the Manager of the Built and Natural Environment met and a number of points were clarified. Following discussion, it was agreed to research the matter further.

ES38/20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Committee noted that there were no confidential items to consider.

ES39/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 11th January 2021 at 19:00hrs either remotely via Zoom or in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP depending on the lifting of social distancing restrictions by central government.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:14 hours.

CHAIR:

DATE:



Environment & Services Committee

Date: 6th January 2021

Title: Committee Update Report

Purpose of the Report: To provide Members with an update relating to the responsibilities of the Environment & Services Committee, to identify further actions and outline any decisions required.

Contact Officer: Julie Debbage

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the report be noted;
- 1.2 To consider forming an Environmental Working Group
- 1.3 To consider forming a Natural Flood Management Group

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Leominster Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of a number of open spaces and play areas in Leominster.
- 2.2 Herefordshire Council no longer provides funding for Lengthsman or P3 initiatives. Leominster Town Council will continue to maintain the footpaths using its direct labour force and carry out a small range of Lengthsman duties in-house.
- 2.3 Herefordshire Council have introduced a new initiative where funding can be obtained for parishes that have continued funding the Lengthsman Scheme, to carry out works to improve highway drainage on C & U roads.
- 2.4 This report provides background information for the Committee to consider on new and existing projects, updates members on progress to date and identifies any further actions that may be required.

3. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

- 3.1 Works to clear PROW's continues with hedges being cut throughout the next 3 months. The clerk will liaise with the footpath officer over any issues that may arise.

- 3.2 A request has been received from a resident regarding ZC20 near Orchard Lane. There is an existing stile made up of sheep hurdles which is difficult for walkers to cross. The request is for the town council to support the request for a gate to enable easy access by all members of the community. Initial enquiries have been made to Balfour Beatty regarding this matter.

4 COMMITTEE MATTERS

Allotments

- 4.1 There are currently five half plots and one quarter plot empty on the allotment site. We have 24 people on the waiting list and had been working through the list just before Christmas but this will now have to pause due to the latest national lockdown.

Lengthsman Drainage Scheme

Ditching and jetting work being carried out by our lengthsman in the Ivington area will resume into the New Year. He encountered some issues with people blocking drainage channels and ditches before Christmas and a meeting was held with the locality steward. It was agreed that he would visit the three sites and speak to residents about the matter. A payment of £4200 for reimbursement has been received from Herefordshire Council.

Trees

An action plan is currently being completed to deal with any issues raised with the Tree Survey carried out last year.

Enhancements by the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) have communicated an interest in delivering some environmental enhancements in Leominster. These will be implemented on the back of the EA schemes and also provide a benefit for both people and wildlife. Following flood defence projects in Leominster there is a budget to spend on environmental enhancements around the town.

Examples of enhancements this budget could be spent on to help make Leominster a more biodiverse place:

- Creation of a wildlife pond with a platform for pond dipping. A contractor would be commissioned to install a pond that meets local specifications for access, safety etc.
- Sowing wildflower meadow areas- this may require slightly adjusted maintenance from Leominster Town Council.
- Installing bird and bat boxes.
- Fitting footbridges with dipper boxes. This requires owner permission.
- Tree planting both traditional orchards and community woodland.

It is the EA's commitment to tree planting to offset the trees that needed to be removed as part of the Leominster Flood Alleviation Scheme. We were hoping to plant these trees in areas that will maximise their benefits either for the environment or public amenity. Options could include planting traditional orchards, extending and diversifying hedgerows and planting wetland trees near the river to provide habitat for riparian wildlife.

4.5 ***Natural Flood Management***

A Zoom meeting is to be arranged for interested councillors to discuss Natural Flood Management in the local area.

4.6 ***Environmental Working Group***

Cllr. Williamson has suggested that an Environment Working Group be set up with the following objectives.

- Formulate a robust carbon reduction plan (EDAP) alongside the work that was started by Transition Leominster.
- Look at what has already been achieved as part of this and celebrate our success so far.
- Engage with communities further- social media, website and shop frontage.
- Map our green spaces.
- Investigate budget allocation for the future.