



Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held at
The Grange Sports Field, Northampton Road, Earls Barton on Monday 20th March 2023

Present: Cllr N Chapman, B Chapman, Cllr V Gould, Cllr C Lloyd-Staples, J Weller, G West.

1. Public Speaking Time – 4 members of the public were in attendance and spoke to members about the planting of bluebells on the green area on Compton Way, possible maintenance to the hedgerow behind the jubilee trees and the possibility of making something out of the horse chestnut tree on Manor House Close, should it need to be removed.
2. Apologies for Absence – apologies of absence were received from Cllr L Morrison, Cllr C Wells, and B Whatton.
3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest – no declarations of interest were received.
4. Tree Planting Strategy –
 - Maintenance of the whips planted in the pocket park was discussed. RS to request some wood chippings and volunteers to be sought to spread mulch and clear brambles from around the trees. RS to ask Greener Ground Care for a quote to remove brambles from the pocket park.
 - An offer to plant a memorial tree in one of the tree pits on The Square has been received. RS to contact NNC to find out what tree would be acceptable and ask them to prepare the tree pits for planting. Also ask what action can be taken to level the area behind the bench so that a planter can be installed.
 - A walk around the village is to be organised so that areas for further planting can be identified, as well as trees that would benefit from a Tree Preservation Order. Once this has been carried out, a Tree Planting Policy can be created.
 - Some hedging plants are left from the last Woodlands Trust delivery. Some of these can be used on Compton Way and possibly Aggate Way and the Cemetery (boundary to The Wickets). It was agreed to submit a new Woodlands Trust application for the autumn.
5. Wildflower Verges and Maintenance of Highway verges – RS to ask Weedwise for a quote to spray the nettles on the bank at Aggate Way. Once this is clear, works can begin to create a wildflower area. The ranger at Sywell Country Park has offered to give advice on what to plant.
6. Electric Vehicle Charing Points (VCP) – No further update. RS to continue to respond to consultations by NNC pushing for EVCP in Earls Barton. RS to also ask the Co-op if there are any plans to install EVCP in their car park.

7. Litter Strategy –
 - The Barton Wombles has now disbanded as there was no volunteers to take over the administration of the group. The litter picking equipment has been passed to the scouts, but the Wombles boxes remain for those who still want to go our litter picking. It was agreed to consider a litter picking day for the Coronation. In addition, information and a request for volunteers is to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April.
 - A meeting has been held with Nenescape to discuss the issue of litter by the River Nene. Water safety signage, which includes information about disposing of litter, are to be put up before Easter. The landowner is to be contacted about providing a litter box and the marina is to be contacted about partnership working on an initiative to reduce litter by the river.
8. Recycle/Reduce/Reuse Strategy – Facebook page to be set up by RS. EB Library recycling point is being well used, as is the Co-op soft plastics recycling scheme.
9. Aggate Way – A consultation is to be held at the Annual Parish Meeting to find out what the community would like to be included in the Community Garden. RS to contact J R Garden Services about assisting with the project, once a scheme has been decided.
10. Climate Action Plan. – The Climate Action Plan is to be updated by the sub-committee via email and presented to the next full meeting of Earls Barton Parish Council, where EBPC will be asked if they will adopt the Plan and declare a climate emergency.

Date of Next Meeting – to be confirmed.