



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held at Earls Barton Fire Station, High Street, Earls Barton on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Present: Cllr N Chapman (Chair), Cllr G Broadhead, B Chapman, B Groome, C Lloyd-Staples, J Weller, Cllr C Wells.

1. **Public Speaking Time** – members of the public attended to speak about a proposed hedge and tree planting scheme on Compton Way green space.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – apologies of absence were received from Cllr B Chapman, W Miller, L Morrison, Cllr M Walters, B Whatton.
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest** – no declarations of interest were received.
4. **Sub-Committee Membership** - following discussion and introductions, it was agreed to invite Bridget Chapman, Bec Groome, Chris Lloyd-Staples, William Miller, Linda Morrison, John Weller and Bex Whatton to join to Environment Sub-Committee as formal advisory members. It was agreed that a strategy would be drawn up based on the Clerk's document.  
Action Points:
  - Clerk to start drawing up strategy with assistance from NC.
5. **Tree Planting Strategy** – it was noted that trees can only be planted on Parish Council controlled land. Planting in other areas (such as on highway land) would require permission. The strategy should include a strategy to replace trees already removed, identifying areas for tree planting, engagement with householders to encourage tree planting in private gardens and a definitive list of trees with Tree Protection Orders in Earls Barton so they can be defended. It was also agreed that a scheme for planting a hedge and a small number of trees on the Compton Way green space be presented to the next full Parish Council meeting for funding. CW offered to underwrite the scheme should funding not be available.  
Action Points:
  - Clerk to contact NNC Tree Officer for definitive list of trees with TPOs
  - Discuss tree planting on verges with NNC Highways once list of sites has been prepared.
  - Funding for tree planting to be explored.
  - Householders to be encouraged to apply for a tree from the Queens Canopy scheme.
  - Look into hedge maintenance
6. **Wildflower Verges and Maintenance of Highway Verges** – it was noted that this is much harder than tree planting. Appropriate maintenance must be identified and included in the PC maintenance schedule. Areas need to be identified and research done.  
Action Points:
  - Contact other villages who have done wildflower verges

- Identify locations.
- Liaison with NNC Highways where required.
- Contact Great Doddington PC about possible joint initiative.

**7. Electric Vehicle Charging Points (VCP)** – consider what locations are viable for a charging point and investigate funding.

Action Points:

- Identify sites (inc. The Square, Park Street Car Park)
- Contact NNC about possible funding
- Contact Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners office about including a charging point at their development on the Industrial Estate.

**8. Litter Strategy** – The great work that The Barton Wombles do was raised. It was agreed that we could support them by holding litter picking events. Fly-tipping could be reported via the Parish Council with the possibility of a Fly-tipping ambassador who could liaise directly with Norse. Talks to the local schools. Publicise where The Wombles boxes are.

Action Points:

- Talk to The Barton Wombles about collaborative working on litter picks.
- Discuss arranging an assembly at EB Primary School, with The Wombles.
- Clerk to publicise Wombles Boxes through Facebook page.
- Clerk to contact Norse about fly-tipping initiative and publicise.
- Litter Reporting – liaise with The Wombles.

**9. Recycle/Reduce/Reuse Strategy** – it was agreed that a Facebook page should be set up to share information to encourage Recycle/Reduce/Reuse. Also ask EB Primary School if they still have Green Champions

Action Points:

- Clerk to set up Facebook page.
- BC writing an article for Barton Today on local recycling opportunities.
- JW to talk to school to find out if they still have Green Champions.

**10. Other Environment Proposals and the Implementation of a Climate Change Action Plan** – other ideas to be looking into include:

- Grants for Community Projects – Clerk to look into and engage with community.
- Queen's Canopy – Clerk to apply and put information on Facebook.
- Planters – to be looked into further with Andrea of Barton Today.
- Solar Panels – look into possible location and available funding.
- Cycle Racks – liaise with library and EB Primary School.
- Safer Routes to School – ask EB Primary School to carry out a travel survey (JW) and discuss with the NNC Highways Safer Routes to School Officer (NC/Clerk).

**Date of Next Meeting** – to be confirmed.