



**DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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Duston Parish Council  
Duston Community Centre  
Pendle Road  
Duston  
Northampton  
NN5 6DT

## **Environment Committee Minutes** **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Chair:** Cllr P Enright-King

**Councillors Present:**

Cllrs Craven, Dickenson, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Liddon

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

George Nemteanu – Facilities & Operations Manager

**EC89/24. To receive apologies for absence**

- There were no apologies received.

**EC90/24. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (APPENDIX A)**

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

**EC91/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda**

- Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests in the items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. There were no interests declared.

#### **EC92/24. Public Participation Session**

- There were no members of the public present.

#### **EC93/24. Overflowing Bins**

- Since February 2024, the Council has received 6 emails, multiple phone inquiries and feedback from Councillor surgeries stating that public litter bins have not been emptied. The Clerk noted that West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) holds responsibility for a majority of the litter bins in Duston. Duston Parish Council (DPC) has paid for the installation and continues to pay WNC for the emptying of 7 litter bins. Currently, when DPC receives a report from a resident, staff forward the report onto WNC via their online reporting system as well as informing the resident on how to report the issue directly.
- **RESOLVED:**
  - a) That the discussion surrounding the problems of overflowing bins in Duston was noted.
  - b) To implement a trial initiative by fixing QR Codes onto the seven bins under DPC ownership. The QR codes will direct users to a DPC report page.
  - c) The Clerk clarifies with West Northamptonshire Council what is the criteria to get the bins emptied more regularly by their contractor.

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#### **EC94/24. Environmental Maintenance Program**

- Committee has previously expressed interest in further bulb and tree planting and asked the Clerk to come up with proposals.
- The Facilities and Operations Manager gave a presentation about where bulbs and trees could go. The Facilities and Operations Manager answered various questions from the Committee.
- The Committee thanked the Facilities and Operations Manager for his and the team work.
- **RESOLVED:**
  - a) That the presentation from staff on forthcoming environmental maintenance and projects including rewilding was received discussed and noted.

- b) That the project proposal for bulb planting was approved.
- c) To do some tree planting in Mendip Park.

#### **EC95/24. Sandy Lane Hedge**

- Residents have raised concerns over damage to the Sandy Lane Hedgerow due to the creation of 'short-cuts'. It was noted that a short cut has been created opposite the newly installed traffic lights. Six large cut-throughs have currently been identified. It was discussed that any works to repair the hedgerow would likely be trampled if a suitable alternative route was not made available.
- There is currently no budgetary provision for creating a formal pathway.
- **RESOLVED:**
  - a) That the Clerk identifies possible suitable locations and associated costings for the creation of a singular formalised pathway and directional finger signs (APPENDIX B).
  - b) Due to the potential cost and staff time involved this would need to be referred to Council for further discussion.

#### **EC96/24. No parking at Junction Signs**

- **RESOLVED:** To delegate the selection of junctions to signpost to the Clerk.

#### **EC97/24. Enforcement**

- The Clerk advised Committee that the Parish Council had no legal powers to enforce the Highway Code and issue FPN.
- Legally, the Clerk also advised, Duston Parish Council has powers of enforcement when it comes to graffiti and littering. However, no town/parish council in Northamptonshire does this as in part it is a lot of work and potentially very expensive due to it being a labour intensive activity.
- **RESOLVED:**
  - a) That the advice from The Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils upon the legal powers of a parish council in relation to enforcement of parking, littering, fly tipping and graffiti related issues was received, discussed and noted. (APPENDIX C)
  - b) That the Clerk researches the costings of hiring / renting a traffic and or litter warden and reports the information back to the Environment Committee.

**EC98/24. Updates on ongoing Environment Committee projects**

- The Clerk gave an update on the following:
  - Entrance to Mendip Park: Contractors have been contacted and now awaiting a response.
  - Bench in Mendip Park: Waiting for entrance water to subside and then they can get onto the park.
  - Streetlighting in Meeting Lane: Cllr Liddon reported back on his discussions with the boys brigade and said about it being in a conservation area. Cllr Enright-King will approach the Conservative Club and suggest they apply for a grant.
  - CCTV in Limehurst Square: The evidence doesn't necessarily suggest that it is a crime hotspot. Refer back to the next Council to see if this is something they wish to pursue.
  - Noise deterrent in Limehurst Square: No update.
  - Victim Support: They have been contacted
  - Goal Posts in Errington Park: They have been ordered
  - Table Tennis in Errington Park & Melbourne / St Luke's Field: The order has been submitted
  - Welcome To Duston Sign repaint: This has been redone.
  - The Clerk will refer the 30mph stickers to the next Council meeting for approval. They could well be on telecoms boxes.

*The meeting finished at 8:38pm*