



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES 15th JUNE 2023

Cllrs Enright-King, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Liddon

CHAIR: Councillor Enright-King

PRESENT: Cllrs Ennis-Clark, Ingram and Liddon

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk
George Nemteanu – Facilities & Operations Manager
Cllr Joanne Mumford

EC01/23. To elect a Chair of the Environment Committee

- Cllr P Enright-King was elected Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023/24.

EC02/23. To elect a Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee

- Cllr M Ingram was elected Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023/24.

EC03/23. To receive apologies for absence

- There were no apologies received.

**EC04/23. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday
20th April 2023**

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th April 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EC05/23. 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.

EC06/23. Public Participation Session

- There were two members of the public present. One spoke upon item EC07/23 and the other upon EC10/23

EC07/23. St. Luke's Field / Sussex Close Boundary

- Dead trees were removed from the boundary in January 2023 due to safety concerns and potential damage to adjacent property. The Council has been advised that a fence / gate along this boundary may require planning permission. In addition, a fence / gate may not comply with the current lease with the land owner. There has been some planting on the boundary recently as part of the Queen Green Canopy (APPENDIX B).
- **RESOLVED:** To recommend to Council that mature hedges be planted along this boundary using the Community Infrastructure Levy. A fence would be expensive and planting hedges would be more environmentally friendly.

EC08/23. Litter Bin on Port Road

- Recently a member of the public addressed Council requesting Duston Parish Council install a litter bin on Port Road near Alpine Way. It was discussed whilst this area is in Duston Parish the problem with litter and dog fouling is further along near the bridge. The litter and dog fouling problem is within Harlestone Manor Parish Council.
- **RESOLVED:** To contact Harlestone Manor Parish Council to see if they will install a litter bin near the bridge on Port Road.

EC09/23. Cllr Mumford Report Back From Year 5 The Duston School

- Recently Cllr Mumford had recently been invited to talk to Year 5 pupils at The Duston School. Cllr Mumford's notes were distributed to other councillors present. The Committee thanked Cllr Mumford for her report and also for engaging with Year 5 pupils. There were items that the Committee agreed were good ideas such as electric

car charging points and making parks accessible for people with disabilities. More play equipment in Duston would be welcomed.

- **RESOLVED:** To make and install bird / bat boxes in our parks and open spaces as show of good faith to the present year 5 pupils from Duston School win from Cllr Mumford's feedback report.

EC10/23. Parking on Footpaths

- There is an issue for people with disabilities who find it difficult to pass parked cars on the pavement. Some parked vehicles leave little space on the pavement which means sometimes wheelchair users have to cut across private property or find an alternative but longer route. It was noted ultimately that Northamptonshire Police or West Northamptonshire Council as the Highways authority has the tools to do something about this. However, it was also noted the roads are narrow and if cars didn't park to some extent on the pavement emergency vehicles would not get through.
- **RESOLVED:** To note that inconsiderate parking continues to be a problem in Duston.

EC11/23. Preserving Hedgehogs

- Cllr Ennis-Clark spoke about the problems of garden power tools which can injure small wildlife to animals. A particular problem is strimmers injuring or even killing hedgehogs that hide in overgrowth and plants.
- **RESOLVED:** That a poster from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society is by placed on our notice boards for a month and also placed on DPC social media platforms.

EC12/23. CCTV in Parks

- There was a discussion on the legality, practicality and effectiveness of installing CCTV in DPC owned Parks. The point was also made that if DPC is to invest in parks then they need to safe.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk contacts Northamptonshire Police to see if they had any guidance or comments about CCTV in parks.
 - b) That the item be placed upon the next Environment Committee agenda for further consideration.

EC13/23. Errington Park

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) To purchase the commemorative bench using Community Infrastructure Levy (APPENDIX C).
 - b) To install concrete bases for the two existing benches adjacent to the play area (APPENDIX D)

EC14/23. Limehurst Square Litter

- There was a discussion around the persistent issue of litter in Limehurst Square. There are six litter bins in the area and a further bin outside Duston Community Centre. Maybe the shops could be encouraged to help keep Limehurst Square litter free.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk will check the litter picking policy of Tesco
 - b) That the Clerk will draft a letter and present to the next Environment Committee.

EC15/23. Clerk Report

- The small benches at Harlestone Road bus stop and Weggs Farm Bus Stop should be installed within the next month. The Clerk was instructed to get this done.
- The Clerk to chase the contractor on the installation of soakway at the entrance to Mendip Park.
- The Clerk has contacted WNC about obtaining S106 for Mendip Park improvements such as new play equipment, a commemorative bench and a lockable gate with Sam Harrison Way. However, as yet there has been no response from WNC despite the Clerk chasing.
- DPC staff currently planning the bee stops at Errington Park and Mendip Park. Grafton Way Meadow has been done marked out already. Looking at purchasing some wild flower seeds.
- The Clerk has asked WNC permission to move the covid 19 memorial bench in the cemetery and is waiting for an answer.

The meeting finished at 8:36pm