



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Environment Committee Minutes
Thursday 18th April 2024

Chair: Cllr P Enright-King

Councilors Present:

Cllrs Craven, Dickenson, Ennis-Clark, Ingram,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

EC99/24. To receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllr Liddon.

EC100/24. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024 (APPENDIX A)

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

EC101/24. 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.

EC102/24. Public Participation Session

- Three members of the public present – three members of the local policing unit and a Designing Out Crime Officer
- Two members of the spoke upon Bants Lane Allotment

EC103/24. EV Charging Points

- **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk researches and creates a report detailing the installation / ongoing costs / income and planning requirements associated with Electrical Vehicle charging points, identifying appropriate locations.

EC104/24. Community Speed Watch

- **RESOLVED:** That the committee supports the Police suggestion of establishing local Community Speedwatch Groups and will share any relevant information via social media.

EC105/24. Partnership working with Police

- The Designing Out Crime Officer said she has been to Limehurst Square and looked at the local crime data. She said the data showed there was a stronger case for CCTV in other neighbours in the local area. CCTV at Limehurst Square would not necessarily prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The representatives of the Police also spoke about break in of sheds at Bants Lane allotments.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) Not to pursue CCTV at Limehurst Square for the time being.
 - b) It is welcomed that the Police attended this meeting and it was hoped they would attend further meetings of the Parish Council in future.

EC106/24. Play Equipment Inspection

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the play areas and gym equipment which Duston Parish Council get independently inspected (Errington Park, Mendip Park, Grafton Way Meadow, St Luke's Field, Quarry / Duston Wildes, and Haydown Green) was noted.

- b) That the Council includes Triumph Gardens and Westbury Close to the independent inspection rota.
- c) That Triumph Gardens and Westbury Close are included in routine inspections by the Council.

EC107/24. Tree Inspection for 2024/25

- The Clerk conducts tree surveys on a staggered schedule to spread survey and associated remedial cost over three years to ensure budget stability. However, many of the land transfers have not yet taken place.
- **RESOLVED:** Not to conduct tree surveys in 2024/25 until the land transfers have taken place.

EC108/24. Speeding In Alsace Close

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the correspondence from a resident in Alsace Close (APPENDIX B) was received, discussed and noted.
 - b) That the Clerk obtains relevant permissions to install a Speed Activated Sign in Alsace Close and adds the location to the current speed activated sign location rota.

EC109/24. Tree to the Rear of Ashwood Road

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the verbal update on a trees to the rear of Ashwood Road (*APPENDIX C note: the land does not belong to Duston Parish Council nor West Northamptonshire Council*) was received, discussed and noted.
 - b) That the Environment Committee recommends that Duston Parish Council does not continue in any further involvement in the dispute over ownership of the trees to the rear of Ashwood Road.
 - c) That the Environment Committee recommends not to conduct or fund any remedial works on the trees to the rear of Ashwood Road. It is noted that the tree is in private ownership in an area which is not used by the general public.

EC110/24. Tree of Hope Planting

- **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the discussion of the situation of planting around the Tree of Hope was noted.
- b) To purchase and plant established plants to create an informal barrier as opposed to any structures.

EC111/24. Tree Planting at Mendip Park

- As requested the Clerk has ordered some young trees from the Woodland Trust.
- Previously it was suggested Willow Trees could be purchased to help soak up some of the excess water.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) The roots of any trees planted do not cause any damage to the recently installed Soakaway and Anglian Water Drains.
 - b) To get small copse pack (x30 trees) from the Woodland Trust.

EC112/24. Limehurst Square

- **RESOLVED:** That the following ideas to improve Limehurst Square be investigated and communicated to the Community Services Committee:
 - The Bins be blocked on the North East openings to stop litter being blown out due to the design of the Square creating an artificial wind tunnel.
 - To research 'stick your gum / vape stickers here' poster to install around the Square with the aim of reducing the amount of gum and vape stickers scattered around.
 - Stick QR codes to the bins on the Square linking to the report function to ensure that the bins are being reported when full.
 - The cost and implications of installing something to block off the fly tipping hotspot from the public footpath.
 - The cost and staffing implications of installing hanging basket upon the lampposts around the square.