



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Environment Committee

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

12th April 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Thursday 18th April 2024 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens
Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

AGENDA

EC99/24. To receive apologies for absence

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

EC101/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda (*Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business*).

EC102/24. Public Participation Session (*Persons wishing to address the committee on an agenda item may register their intention to do so by telephone or email by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes*).

EC103/24. EV Charging Points

- To discuss getting more EV Charging Points in Duston and how it would be paid for

EC104/24. Community Speed Watch

- To discuss the Police suggestion of establishing local Community Speedwatch Groups

EC105/24. Partnership working with Police

- To discuss the current DPC partnership working with the Police

EC106/24. Play Equipment Inspection

- To note the annual independent play & gym equipment will be
 - Errington Park
 - Mendip Park
 - Grafton Way Meadow
 - St Luke's Field
 - Quarry / Duston Wildes
 - Haydown Green

EC107/24. Tree Inspection for 2024/25

- To discuss the approach to tree inspection for 2024/25

EC108/24. Speeding In Alsace Close

- To discuss correspondence from a resident in Alsace Close about the problem of speeding (APPENDIX B)

EC109/24. Tree to the Rear of Ashwood Road

- To receive an update on a tree to the rear of Ashwood Road (*APPENDIX C note: the land does not belong to Duston Parish Council nor West Northamptonshire Council*).

EC110/24. Tree of Hope Planting

- To discuss the situation of planting around the Tree of Hope

EC111/24. Tree Planting at Mendip Park

- To agree planting trees from The Woodland Trust at Mendip Park

EC112/24. Limehurst Square

- To discuss and agree how best to work with the Community Services Committee regarding Limehurst Square.



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Environment Committee Minutes
Thursday 21st 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 15th February 2024 (APPENDIX A)

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th 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.

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

APPENDIX B

Good Morning,

I wonder if you may be able to help me, I live at XX Alsace Close, Duston which is parallel with the 'old Sandy Lane' walkway, there is a cutting there for walkers / dogs / children to go to and from, we have a number of residents (and other drivers looking round the close) that are driving way too fast for a small close and obviously with the walk way and young children around it feels like an accident waiting to happen so I wondered if there was any way that we could have some signs put up on the lamp posts advising of a speed limit of say 20 mph or even a matrix sign advising people of their speed as I am sure some people are not aware of what speed they are doing and, especially now we are going in to Spring / Summer and this walk way is going to get a lot busier.

My neighbour has spoken to some people to ask them to slow down but all you get is abuse, so I thought this may help to remind them to slow down and be more careful and considerate.

Is this something you may be able to help with?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and Kind Regards

APPENDIX C



