

Notes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington on 14 June 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Councillors Lloyd, Stock-Williams and Reed.

Also present: Councillor Thorne

1. Appointment of Chairman

Councillor Reed

2. Apologies

Councillors Biscoe and Critchard

3. Dog Fouling

At the March 2017 meeting of the Council, Lyn Partridge-Webber and Addy Bloodworth of Wellington Action Group for Dogs (WAG) drew attention to a scheme currently operated by Boston Borough Council and Daventry District Council which made it an offence for dog walkers not to carry a bag. It had been agreed to refer this initiative to the Environment Committee for further consideration.

(Both Lyn and Addy were present for this item).

Enquiries of other Councils revealed that the requirement for dog walkers to carry bags with them had been incorporated in a Public Spaces Protection Order. This would mean that if the same path were to be followed here, the existing PSPO would need to be amended.

However, it was recognised that the problem would not be the introduction of the appropriate legislation but the ability to resource any kind of enforcement. Although Boston BC had the ability to take legal action they had never prosecuted anyone and had never found anyone challenged without a bag.

It was agreed to maintain a high profile for this problem. Meanwhile, the TDBC Portfolio Holder, Cllr Patrick Berry, should be made aware, a Children's Poster competition could be arranged and a missing sign at the entrance to the play area in the Recreation Ground should be replaced.

4. Emptying of Dog Bins

The DLO would once again be providing a dog bin emptying service for those bins in the Town Council's ownership. The rate would be £2.85 + vat per bin per visit. There were 25 bins in town, 7 of which this Council paid for. They are emptied twice a week.

Following a request made by WiB at a recent meeting of the Council consideration was given to the provision of an extra dog bin on Taunton Road. It was agreed to provide a bin and place it half way between the Chelston and Cades roundabouts. The cost of purchase and installation would be around £400 and the cost of collection would need to be added to the existing emptying service.

5. Town Centre Seating

When the Committee met last year Councillor Thorne indicated that it had been drawn to his attention that people with difficulty walking but who did not use mobility scooters, did not have many seats to sit on when in the town centre. Although it started as a 'town centre' issue, he had since been thinking it should be wider than

that, particularly given the accent these days on healthy living styles. Councillor Thorne had mapped out the existing sites and some proposed ones.

The suggested mapping exercise had now been carried out and Councillor Thorne's report is attached to these minutes.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the project be supported and £2,000 be made available annually to cover the cost of installing up to two new public seating units each year together with their ongoing maintenance, with sites and seating design to be selected each year by the committee, with effect from the 2017-18 financial year.

6. Tonedale Play Area

The Committee had previously discussed the arrangements for collecting and removing litter from the Play Area and surrounding public open space. It was part of the Town Clerk's job description to undertake weekly inspections of the play equipment and to collect the litter.. Now that a Community Warden had been appointed, these duties were being undertaken by him.

Since the Committee last met the play equipment had been repaired, refurbished and repainted. Quotations were obtained to replace some of the equipment but these proved to be prohibitive.

It was agreed to ask TDBC to let us know if ever any surplus equipment was available. It was also agreed to place a No Smoking sign in the play area.

7. Town Guide

The 2017 version of the Town Guide had recently been produced and was in the process of being distributed. The Guide was produced, free of charge to the Council, annually by The Edge.

8. Grass Cutting and Roadside Weedkilling

The Town Council were once again paying for an additional three cuts during the season. The cost would be £1,175.48 per cut. The DLO had been to confirm when the cuts would be carried out so that they could be monitored. The DLO had also been asked to provide a quote for the usual roadside weed killing.

The meeting ended at 11.15a.m.