

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Councillor: G. Kneeshaw in the Chair

Councillors: J. Arbuckle, R. Hardcastle, D. Collins, C. Cleasby and S. Whitlock,

In attendance: T Ferry, R. Watts, A. Gray,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Hudson, M. Townsley and D. Windsor.
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – A. Gray claimed a declaration of interest in both agenda items 8 and 9, the Bandstand in Hall Park and Green Flag Status, as he is a member of Friends of Hall Park.
3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – There were no members of the public in attendance.
4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last Environment meeting held on the 29TH October 2009 were received and confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings and were duly signed by the Chair.
5. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
 - a. Minute 8, Christmas Lights Switch On. Councillor Collins reported that she is currently compiling the accounts for the event and will present them to the next meeting.
The Chair of the Environmental Committee said that the event went very well and thanked all those involved.
RESOLVED – To note this report.
 - b. Minute 9, 2009 Bulb Planting. A. Gray reported that this has now been completed. He then provided an update on the Ducklings Nursery project, where the residue of the £400 budget for bulb planting has been spent.
RESOLVED – To note this report.
6. GINNELS – Rosie Watts addressed the Council and provided the statutory position on the definitive list of public rights of way. She briefly spoke about the Partnership Agreement between Leeds City Council (LCC) and Horsforth Town Council (HTC), which has been running for some time and is working very well. The agreement provides an annual amount of £6,500 for HTC to carry out clearance of the public rights of way on the definitive list. HTC has contracted Aire Valley Tree Services to clear 27 of the 54 footpaths twice per year. Members asked if it was possible for more footpaths to be cleared. Rosie informed Members that if more are identified as requiring clearance then she should be informed. A discussion then took place about ownership and responsibilities for Ginnels and Public Footpaths and their furnishings.

Ownership
 - a. Public footpaths including Ginnels – Highways LCC
 - b. Styles and Gates – Landowners
 - c. Ginnels on Social Housing Estates – WNW Housing and maintained by Glendale's

7. QUOTE RECEIVED FROM LEEDS CITY COUNCIL FOR SPRING AND SUMMER HANGING BASKETS 2010

Members were provided with the quotes received from Parks & Countryside for the Spring and Summer Hanging Baskets for 2010. It was noted that the difference in cost from 2009 is £9506. Members discussed obtaining further quotes and it was agreed that due to the planting time required, that the Spring element of the quote should be accepted at £10,494.10, and that Councillor Kneeshaw obtain a further quote for the Summer element from Palmers.

RESOLVED

- a. That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £10,494.10 to provide Spring Hanging Baskets for the Town.
- b. That Councillor Kneeshaw obtains Further quotes for the provision of Summer Hanging Baskets for the Town and report back to this Committee.

8. QUOTE RECEIVED FROM LEEDS CITY COUNCIL FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010

Members were provided with the quote of £6,649.32 from Leeds City Council for the 2010 Christmas Lights. There is an increase on the 2009 cost, which Council has already approved. It was agreed by Members that there is no other funds available for other areas in Horsforth to have additional lights installed.

RESOLVED

That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £6,649.32 for the provision of Christmas Lights.

9. NEW BAND STAND IN HALL PARK

Councillor Hudson is in the process of obtaining quotes for bandstands and will report his findings to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – To note this report.

10. GREEN FLAG STATUS – HALL PARK

Councillor Hudson has discussed this with the Parks Manager and will follow this discussion up and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – To note this report.

11. TREES IN STANHOPE DRIVE

Members discussed the memorial trees in Stanhope Drive. Some have been removed over a period of time to make way for drives, some have died and others are looking very fragile. It was agreed that the trees are at least 70 years old and are of the wrong type of tree for planting on the road verge. A discussion took place about asking residents what they would like to see done with the trees, if anything. Members agreed that moving memorial trees from this area without a general consensus from the public would not be appropriate.

Members asked if there was a memorial list for each tree. The Town Clerk explained that he had already contacted the Royal British Legion for another Horsforth resident asking for the same thing but to no avail. It was agreed that the Museum or the WW2 Archives at Feast Field might have this information.

Members then agreed to ask the Forestry Section at Leeds City Council if they could carry out an assessment on the trees in Stanhope Drive before taking this further.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk request the Forestry Section at Leeds City Council if they could carry out an assessment on the trees in Stanhope Drive.

That the Town Clerk asks the Museum and WW2 Archives at Feast Field if they have the memorial list for each tree.

12. OLD BALL ROUNDABOUT

The Town Clerk advised Members that the reason for the poor condition of the roundabout is that half way through the project; the sub contractors working for the Gas Utility Company went out of business leaving a lot of the work unfinished. He then reported that Highways are going to inspect the roundabout.

Members were concerned that the roundabout is on the In Bloom route and that this information should be provided to Leeds City Council Highways and Northern Gas Network who were responsible for this work being carried out.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk contact Highways and Northern Gas Network and request that the work to the roundabout is completed to a satisfactory standard, and that he informs them that this area is on the In Bloom route.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Boundary Signs Original Invoice

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 8th April 2010 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Office.

HTC/Env/18