

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP HELD ON 18th February 2021 at 7.30pm using Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllrs. Amie Knott (AK), Craig Ellis (CE), Susan Durant (SD), Mark Houlbrook (MH), Ron Powell (RP)

Also present: Mr. Matthew Gleadell (MG)

0001. APOLOGIES

None received.

0002. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

0003. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Resolved to appoint Cllr. Amie Knott as chair

0004. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Resolved to appoint Cllr. Ron Powell as vice chair.

0005. DELVES WATER MANAGEMENT

- SD made us aware of an email regarding the Delves from the original White Lane developer. Plans were in place at that time to look after the area. Email to follow after meeting for our information.
- AK asked about the abandoned pond as water was drained of into this pond when the delves ponds were too full. RP commented on acidity so this was not possible. Abandoned pond owned by Network rail.
- Delves are currently in flood zone 3 and since April 2018 have largely appeared flooded – AK mentioned that 12 pegs are currently under water and the area has not seemed low in over a year.
- RP would like us to seriously consider using the drainage water from the railway embankment, MH endorsed this option being explored – would likely come at a very high cost
- MG discussed having a hydrologist give us a presentation on bore holes due to no cllrs having enough knowledge to make a sensible, and sustainable decision
- MG informed members that Swanlands have a bore hole and consulting with them may be helpful.
 - **ACTION – MG TO GET QUOTES FOR A HYDROLOGIST**
 - **ACTION – AK TO SPEAK WITH DMBC CONTACT**

0006. COULMAN PAVILION DRAINAGE

A member asked is it 1 pump or 2 pumps that we are running?

Drawings must be on record. CE is confident to look at these to establish how the pipework mapping and hopefully determine the issue.

- **ACTION – MG TO PROVIDE CE WITH DRAWINGS. CE TO COME BACK TO NEXT MEETING WITH FINDINGS**

0007. COUNCIL POLICY

RP said we have no existing environmentally focused council policies. The request at last council meeting was that we look into them and challenge as necessary or create appropriate policy as necessary.

- Environment strategy to be adopted.
 - **ACTION – AK TO CREATE TEMPLATE AND MAKE SHAREABLE FOR ALL EWG MEMBERS TO ALLOW CONTINUAL COLLABORATION**
- Env. Strategy to link with DMBCs where viable
- Strategy will help to inform any policy.

0008. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- AK talked about importance of involving residents in this journey by promoting different topics perhaps at a monthly frequency and making use of the council's social media platform to celebrate important dates (earth day, clean air day etc.)
- SD discussed asking public what topics they wanted to be promoted. This can be done via Survey Monkey
 - **ACTION – AK TO SET UP A SURVERY MONKEY AND DISTRIBUTE FOR APPROVAL**
- RP discussed a blog rather than hefty posts on the council's social media. Agreed
 - **ACTION – AK TO LOOK INTO SETTING UP WEBSITE FOR SHARING GROUP'S AMBITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

0009. PRIORITY PLAN

This item was not discussed as it was covered elsewhere in the meeting.

0010. EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

- Agreed external members should be Karl (Thorne Community Woods) And Helen (Thorne Moors Conservation Group). These external members would not be invited until after elections when the group is more stable
- Agreed to include Primary/Secondary school ambassadors to allow our local children and young people to have a voice in future goals.