



## ENVIRONMENT AND RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021** via zoom at **8pm**.

**Present:** Councillor C Edwards  
Councillor R Higginson  
Councillor K Arbuthnot  
Councillor G Jones  
Councillor A Wilson  
Councillor Y Brunger

**In attendance:** Katrina Baker (Clerk)  
2 Members of the public  
Councillor C Rogers (minute part E2021/047)

**E2021/043 Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Edwards, welcomed Members to the meeting of the Environment & Rights of Way Committee.

**E2021/044 Apologies for absence**

CLlr I Pryce                      Leave of Absence                      Agreed

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.**

**E2021/045 Declarations of Interest**

CLlr C Edwards                      Log A Log                      Non prejudicial

**E2021/046 Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Higginson and seconded by Councillor Brunger, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be signed as a true record.**

*Councillor Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest.*

*Councillor Arbuthnot continued as Chairman of the meeting.*

**E2021/047 Alleged Noise Nuisance, Log-A-Log, Edgmond**

The meeting heard from a member of the public that the loud, pitched noise from a saw on the site is intrusive. The background of the matter was confirmed and the Parish Council has been asked to reconsider its response, which followed advice from the Environmental Health Department of TWC which was to advise that any noise nuisance complaints should be made to TWC for investigation.

A representative of the company had discussed the concerns which appeared to affect different parts of the parish depending on the wind direction and weather conditions.

The Parish Council is aware that following a complaint, officers of TWC will be visiting the site this week and will assess the noise as part of their investigation. Members were asked to listen out for the alleged nuisance and to encourage other local residents, who have an opinion, to contact TWC Environmental Health Officers or the Parish Council.

*Councillor Rogers joined the meeting, as an observer.*

Members shared their thoughts and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the company, following the EHO visit for an update and to establish the building location and its structure. When more information is available, this will appear on a future agenda for consideration if necessary.

*Councillor Edwards returned as Chairman of the meeting.*

**E2021/048 Recreational Facilities in Edgmond**

There is no further update. Members agreed to continue to wait for an outcome of the Play Strategy Review by TWC before discussing any changes to the ownership / management of the play area or MUGA.

**E2021/049 Rights of Way  
Path to Newport**

At a time when more families are at home and public transport is not available, rights of way are essential. It is disappointing when rights of way routes are unusable due to obstructions or excess mud.

Members discussed the route and it was confirmed that the track from Robin Lane to the gate, although muddy is not unusable. The track itself is fine, although it is accepted that it will always be muddy in the Winter. However, the issue is below the kissing gate. This has been a serious problem since the installation and the route, across the cultivated field, is practically unusable. It may be that a diversion could be considered to change the route to follow the fence / hedge and this could be a benefit for the landowner as they would not need to cultivate the route.

Members would value the opinion of the Ramblers and it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman could have a virtual meeting with representatives of HAU to discuss any options available.

**Sidlington**

Whilst accepting that the weather has been worse than has been witnessed for some years, concerns were expressed that the lake has overflowed and the footpath is impassable. This will be reported to TWC for investigation.

**E2021/050 Parish Environmental Maintenance  
Edgmond Gardening Club**

Thanks were extended to local residents who have offered to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the informal flower beds around the Parish. Councillor Brunger would be inviting them to join the Edgmond Gardening Club in the Spring (volunteer contracts etc. have been drafted). A donation of £100 has been received towards expenses and the provision of hi-viz tabards and tools. Members were reminded that formal beds can be time-consuming for maintenance and it is good that the village residents are being encouraged to get involved, but we need to be aware that this is a Parish Council initiative.

### **Shrewsbury Road Car Park – Flower Beds**

Members discussed the option to transplant some shrubs into the corner bed, thus allowing the bed near to the car park to be transformed into a more formal bed. As previously agreed, this will be edged (allowing for wildlife access) and planted with a variety of shrubs and flowering plants (to be agreed). The edging will be positioned so that it does not hinder the grass-cutters. The trees will remain in the positions. This will enable the couch grass and weeds to be removed. The corner bed will increase in size to become a more structured wildflower bed which will also be edged.

Councillor Brunger, and volunteers from the Scouts, will undertake this work and it is required to be completed before the end of March in order that the plants will have the best opportunity to survive the move. A list of plants to be included will be agreed with the Chairman prior to planting. Members were reminded of the preference for using peat free compost.

### **Robin Lane**

Members considered the creation of a more formal flower bed on the land opposite Bayley Hills, adjacent to the three-tier planter, in the location where the poppies and wild flowers were. Consideration for this will be given following a discussion with the neighbours and to ensure that the area can be maintained with ease. The Parish Council would like to see fragrant roses and sensory plants, it is important to plan the future of the site before planting.

### **E2021/051 Climate Change**

Following the recent information relating to the use of emails and the request to delete unwanted mail and to unsubscribe to unwanted newsletters and mailshots, Members also discussed the use of email for Parish Council correspondence. In order to reduce the number of emails, acknowledgements will be requested by the Clerk if needed.

### **E2021/052 Any Other Business**

#### **Marsh Road – overgrown hedges**

It is necessary to establish the owner and to request assistance to improve the visibility. However, if this is not possible, TWC will arrange for the hedge to be cut and on ascertaining the owner's details, will forward a bill.

#### **Dog Poo signs**

These will be ordered and the Chairman would make them available for use around the Parish at locations identified as problem areas. The scouts will provide hand-made containers that can hold a small quantity of poo bags and as a trial, two areas will have bags available alongside the signs. However, the message that the Parish Council wants to send out to the dog walkers, will remain – 'pick up, and put the poo bag in a bin or take it home'. It is not acceptable to leave the used poo bag on the verge or hanging in a hedge.

#### **Bulbs and Wild Flowers in verges**

TWC has a plan of where the bulbs are planted. This enables them to ensure that the contractors are aware when then start to cut the grass in the Spring. Other areas can be considered for additional bulbs or wild flowers. The Clerk will contact Edgmond Wildlife Group as it has wildflowers and seeds available as part of a current project and it would be good to work together on this idea.

### **E2021/053 Date of the next meeting**

To be arranged.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed .....Date .....