

Minutes of the Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council Environment Committee

Held on Thursday 10th October 2019 at 9am in the Chamber

Present: Cllr Wendy Stamp, Mayor; Cllr Vanessa Bell; Cllr Fiona Clegg;
Cllr Jennie Donnelly; Cllr Jane English; Sheila Nutt

Agenda:

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Vanessa Bell was elected as Chairman.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was agreed that the Vice-chair would be a split role. Cllr Donnelly and Cllr English were elected as joint Vice Chairmen.

3. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

4. Minute Secretary

Cllr English was appointed as Minute Secretary.

5. Declarations of interests

There were none.

6. Terms of reference

Noted .

7. Town maintenance

i. Suggestion that volunteers may cut hedges etc belonging to residents unable to do this. Residents can report to BTC if they are struggling to maintain their trees/hedges. **To be considered further down the line if/when we have volunteer numbers.**

ii. Proposal that the Environment Committee adopts the Burnham Green Spaces Group. The BGS Group will adopt the terms of reference of the Environment Committee and BTC. Cllr Jennie Donnelly will put a rider on Facebook to clarify. **Adopted.**

iii. Action point:

Cllr Bell to bring safeguarding policy to next meeting

iv. Action point:

Request for first aid training to be brought to BTC.

v. Action point:

Cllr Bell and Cllr Clegg to produce a list of assets to discover ownership and to establish responsibility for maintenance thereof.

vi. Money available from Greater Anglia to cover costs of plants for station area. Volunteers working as 'station adopters' are covered by GA insurance.

Action point:

Letter to be written to Greater Anglia requesting funding for a professional to deal with embankment. Questions put to them regarding other areas with problem embankments and possible solutions.

vii Working parties will be formed as more volunteers become available to take responsibility for different areas in the town.

viii Burnham in Bloom should be organised by BTC. Positions to be decided next year. Judges to be different each year. This to come within Cllr Clegg's events remit. Cllr Donnelly to promote events on social media. Mayor Stamp and Cllr Clegg to do leaflet drop for Christmas events. Sheila Nutt to look at where hanging baskets could be placed. All members to consider where floral attributes should be placed.

Proposal that BTC consider the replacement of the trophies for Burnham in Bloom due to current condition. **Adopted**

ix. Publicity

Proposal: That we ask BTC for the use of the notice board outside the ONE STOP shop for the use of the Committee. Cllr Clegg to be in charge of aesthetics. **Adopted**

x. Grass-cutting/weed spraying

This is very effectively executed by Council's contractors

xi. Footpaths

Previously dealt with by a resident. Paths to be walked once a month – perhaps by Ramblers/U3A/Fitsteps. Different groups to be approached to request this. Cllr Donnelly also volunteered to walk pathways and produce monthly report.

xii. Litter picking is going well. Appears to be less litter. Love Essex are undertaking a campaign but have not approached BTC around joint working.

Action point:

Cllr Bell to research whether bio-degradable bags could replace black bin liners.

Action point:

Cllr Donnelly to research pocket ashtrays and then findings be brought to BTC .

xiii. Working party to look at environmental projects before next meeting

xiv. Problems of accessibility within the town, especially passing room. Chairs/tables outside cafes and A boards, and cycling on the quay.

Proposal that the Environment Committee writes to all businesses stating the rules about A boards and posters. **Adopted**

Action point:

Cllr Clegg to speak to Tim Howson, Conservation Manager, regarding this issue.

Action point:

Cllr Bell to contact MDC about putting no cycling signs on the quay.

xv. Performance currently under budget. Discussion about possible actions and funding.

xvi. 'Community Fridge' to be researched. How does it work? Who polices it? Mayor Stamp and Cllr English to research independently.

8. Date of next meeting

Pre-budget working group will meet on Friday October 18th at 9am.

An EGM has been called for Thursday 14th November, at 2.30, as agreed by the committee.

Usually this committee will meet every two months.

9. Closure of the meeting

The meeting closed at 11.42 am.