

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Local Environment Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Wednesday 3 July 2019 at 9.30am.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Brooke (Chairman).

Councillors: I. Hodge, S. Johnson and E.B. Palmer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors K. Davies, J.M. Johnson and P.A. Johnson.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Baker (Clerk), C.S. Lowry (Support Officer).

LE7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT**

None.

LE8. **WALES IN BLOOM OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

The Clerk provided an update on a number of operational matters being progressed to support this year’s Wales in Bloom arrangements. The judge was due to visit on Wednesday 10th July 2019 and the evidence portfolio was currently being finalised.

The bunting ordered for the town centre was due to be installed the week beginning 8th July 2019 and members were briefed on the locations and method for installation.

There had been some issues with the existing water bowser machine which had affected the early watering cycles of the displays. The existing machine had been repaired many times and was now around 12 years old.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the bunting should remain in the town for at least the summer season, with a review to be undertaken at the next committee meeting following the summer recess period.

- 2) That the Clerk makes arrangements to purchase a replacement water bowser to ensure continued operational delivery of the watering arrangements for the town.

LE9. WATER REFILL STATION/PLASTIC RECYCLING PROJECT

Two main projects were discussed by members; the provision of a water refill point in the town centre, and a water refill scheme which involved promotion amongst local shopkeepers. This involved sign up to a scheme allowing visitors to the town centre and the outlying areas access points to refill water bottles as and when required. The Projects & Development Officer continued to progress research into the water refill point project and there were a number of options under consideration.

Other potential projects discussed included recycling of crisp packets and Crayola crayons.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That members endorse the continued progress towards the installation of a water refill point in the town centre, potentially this could be incorporated into the pending development work to the High Street/Tower Gardens.
- (2) That the Support Officer makes arrangements to launch the water refill scheme and start promotion and consultation with local businesses.

LE10. COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS

The Chair provided an update on this project. There had been adverts placed on social media to stimulate interest and promote the potential for allotments among the local community. An Allotment Association would be formed and there was some initial interest. Once the requisite number of signatories had been obtained a request would be submitted to Flintshire County Council for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That members note and endorse the progress made by the Chair on the Allotments project.

LE11. TOWN CENTRE PLANTERS

Members considered the current status of the town centre planters. There were a couple not being maintained or that were now unattended following business movements on the High Street and the Council had informally received requests by new businesses to take them over. The original grant received from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme to cover the cost of the planter plaques had been fully allocated last year. There were no other spare planters available for new adoption.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk liaise with Russ Warburton, Chair of the Business Group, to identify any requiring handover to new businesses, and to contact Flintshire County Council Streetscene Department should any require relocation. It was confirmed that the Council could no longer fund any further new or replacement plaques.

LE12. FUTURE INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

Members received an update from the Support Officer on recycling projects at the schools and the reduction of single use plastics. The schools had requested support from the Council in applying for grant funding to purchase educational character bins similar to those currently in use in the town centre.

Following some research, the Support Officer had identified an emerging national movement which supported the sowing of wildflowers on grass verges in communities. This had saved a considerable amount of money spent on grounds maintenance costs and had enhanced the appearance of these previously overgrown areas. Members considered the impact such a scheme could have on the Holywell community, which would support both the Wales in Bloom and Bee Friendly initiatives.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Support Officer contacts the schools and offers support to assist them with their endeavours to install the character bins.

- 2) That the Clerk writes to Steve Jones, Chief Officer, Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council to request that the County Council consider the sowing of wildflowers on suitable grass verges. Members suggested that Holywell and Greenfield could be used as a pilot scheme for an initial wildflower sowing programme.

LE13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30am.

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Chairman