

Danbury Parish Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 7.30pm at Danbury Parish Council Office, The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4NQ

Present: Cllr Mrs A Chapman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs B Hallett (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Berlyn, Cllr G Chapman, Cllr A Keeler and Cllr N Orange

In Attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Assistant Clerk)
Ms M Harper (Clerk) - part

22/23.56 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

22/23.57 Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept and the DCA.

There were no declarations at this point.

22/23.58 Public Question Time

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

There were no Members of the Public present.

22/23.59 Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 12 October 2022

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12 October 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman, seconded Cllr Mrs Hallett, two Members abstained from the vote, four Members were in agreement.

22.23.60 Environment Budget 2023- 2024

Members considered the proposed budget. Following discussion and review of the proposed budget lines Cllr Chapman proposed that a budget of £9,069 be put forward to Parish Council for consideration; this was seconded by Cllr Orange, one Member abstained from the vote, all other Members were in agreement. In relation to the Allotments rental fee, Cllr Berlyn proposed that the annual rent be increased to £20 from April 2024, Cllr Mrs Hallett seconded the proposal, one Member voted against the proposal, five Members were in agreement.

RESOLVED THAT:

- i) a budget of £9,069 for 2023-2024 be put forward to Parish Council for consideration
- ii) the rental fee for a Parish Council allotment plot be increased to £20 from April 2024

Ms Harper then left the meeting

22/23.60 Actions

Actions from the minutes were noted.

22/23.61 Pond Clearance

Members noted report of pond clearance works that were undertaken at Eves Corner on Wednesday 26th October

22/23.62 Environment Committee Strategic Plan Updated

Members noted the changes to the plan as agreed at the October meeting. It was agreed that due to issues arising from land slippage, no planting (bulbs, wildflowers) has been budgeted for in 2023-2024; plan to be updated accordingly; Cllr Mrs Chapman will create a policy for responding to highways issues; Assistant Clerk will research/progress as applicable the other proposed actions.

22/23.63 Matters for Report (for information only)

Matters Reported:

- Road markings at Hyde Lane and Cherry Garden Lane still a concern, but lines at Landisdale have been reinstated
- Rotary Club planted 2,000 crocus bulbs at Elm Green between the trees and the A414; there was one volunteer from the village helping Rotary Club Members.
- Two volunteers have come forward: one for the 'Friends of the Community Woodland' and the second offering to help on both P3 projects and the community woodland (P3 and Friends of the Community Woodland will be on next agenda)

22/23.64 Matters for Communication

There were no matters identified from the meeting for communication to residents

22/23.65 Dates of Meetings in 2023

Parish Council to approve proposed dates

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Signed: Chairman..... Date: