



CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Environment and Amenities Committee** of Chepstow Town Council held via Zoom on Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr T Griffiths

Councillors: M Griffiths, J MacTaggart, M Le-Peltier, N Meyrick (left 8.30pm), D Rooke (remote), J Rosser (remote left 7.40pm), M Perkins, S Tulley-Cade

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs L Allen (Town Clerk)
Miss C Baker (Community Projects Officer)

36. Apologies

See above.

37. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None.

38. To Suspend Standing Orders

Standing Orders were suspended for the following items:

a) Public Open Forum (15 minutes at the discretion of the Chair)

None present.

b) Chepstow Creatives

Members received a presentation from Chepstow Creatives in regard to gaining support for improving some of the more run down and blank walls around Chepstow by showcasing some local artists work.

c) Energy Local

Member received a presentation from Energy Local CIC in regard to ways in which the Council can support the community to become net zero.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

39. Minutes

The Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

40. Matters Arising

Members noted the report from the Clerk.

41. Projects Report

Members considered the report on Environment & Amenities Projects and noted the following progress:

1. Place Plan

That the next meetings will be held on Wednesday, 1st and 15th February 2023 via Zoom at 6pm.

2. Beehives

All kit and resources have been ordered, caretaker continues studies with Gwent Beekeepers' Association and is enrolled on the Ethical Beekeeping course as well as (in his own time and self-funded) an online "Natural Beekeeping" course to further knowledge.

3. Carbon Reduction / Energy Study

- i. awaiting further quotes for loft insulation at the Old Library.
- ii. received the report on secondary glazing for the Gatehouse and noted further information is being gathered.
- iii. noted that the Gatehouse performance rating is C following the Energy Performance Assessment with the following recommendations:
 - Add optimum start/stop to the heating system.
 - Some windows have high U-values – consider installing secondary glazing.
 - Add weather compensation controls to heating system.

4. The Dell Water Fountain

A site meeting with Fountain Restoration Company (FRC) took place on 22nd November 2022. Dwr Cymru approval for connection has been obtained. FRC have confirmed they will work with us to ensure disabled access to the fountain is possible (this work will be completed by MCC after the fountain has been restored). FRC is able to recommend a company for producing the plaque for the fountain, which FRC could then attach.

5. Riverbank Water Refill Station

Awaiting Monmouthshire County Council authority for works.

6. Green Bin shelter

Pre-planning application made for riverbank area. Despite numerous attempts to engage MCC planning officers no response has been received. Therefore, a pre-planning application was made in December 2023. Awaiting response to this official submission.

7. Railway Station Accessibility

Noted the response received from Network Rail via email:

I'm not sure if you are aware but Chepstow has been nominated by Network Rail for the UK Government funded 'Access for All' programme in Control Period 7. The Access for All programme provides an obstacle free, accessible route to and between platforms.

I know that we are still waiting to hear back from DfT regarding the results of the nomination but I will double check with the team if we have any updates.

8. Wales Coastal Path / Seating

1. Benches (approved in 2021-2022) have arrived and are being stored at the Gatehouse.
2. Site meeting with Barratt Homes took place on 5th January 2023 regarding maintenance of boundary fence and vegetation overgrowing the boundary etc, key points –
 - Upon completion of site works the freehold of the quarry is due to be transferred to Greenbelt (<https://www.greenbelt.co.uk/>) who will maintain the site and outdoor spaces of the new housing estate.
 - Greenbelt will be responsible for managing and maintaining the site which in line with plans will be considered an ecological site (more than 150 slowworms from elsewhere on the development site were relocated to the quarry part of the site pre-work commencement).

- Representative from Barrett Homes has seen first-hand the damage to the fence and will discuss with colleagues the possibility of a sturdier fence (such as is at the lower boundary with the woodland).
- Councillors and representative felt there is no possibility of widening the narrowest point of the path due to the proximity to the quarry edge. Acknowledged that at this section two-way traffic of pushchairs and or wheelchairs is not possible, but there is no adjacent land available to widen the path. Discussed whether signage could be made and erected notifying 'path widens in 50m' for example, so that users of the path are aware that it is only a short narrow section, which may encourage more users.
- Representative will discuss the possibility of a small vantage point across the quarry.
- The vegetation in general is felt to provide a good deterrent from people climbing over the fence.
- Understands that the Council would like to be informed of a vegetation maintenance schedule, which will assist in dealing with public concerns and complaints, and ensure the path remains accessible all year round.
- The issue of litter (and black bags) over the fencing was noted and acknowledges that Barratt Homes would not want any council staff taking a risk by trying to litter pick on their side of the fence. It was suggested that perhaps contractors with harnesses (attached to the fence) may be able to carry this out, but this also needs a regular annual schedule.
- The above concerns will be discussed with colleagues and will update the Council.
- Barratt Homes may be amenable to having artwork along the fence and, if approved, that the displays should relate to the Wales Coast Path or the history of the land, making the narrow section of the path more attractive.

9. Wikipedia Page

Information gathering taking place.

10. Community Growing Space

Project successfully continuing thanks to the volunteers leading. Continue to support by way of funding purchases (seeds, soil, etc). Woven badges have arrived for Cllr T Griffiths to present.

11. Queen's Green Canopy

Enquiries made with Barratt Homes as to whether the four Scots Pine trees for the Queen's Jubilee can be planted at the new housing estate.

12. Nature Spaces – Bulwark Wildlife Garden

All items have been delivered. The town crew will install the garden along with volunteers from Chepstow Mencap during January.

With the consent of the meeting the Chair reported the following late item for information:

Planning Application 20/0717/FUL – The planning application is for 2 no. agricultural buildings for the housing of broilers, erection of feed bins, formation of vehicular access together with all other associated works for a farm in Powys. Concerns have been raised locally in regard to the run off of debris into the River Wye and Members requested the Chair of the Council consider calling an extraordinary meeting to discuss a response to the application.

42. One Voice Wales Biodiversity Hub

Members received a verbal summary of points of interest from the One Voice Wales Green Hub Biodiversity conference attended by Cllr J MacTaggart and the Community Projects Officer. Members requested that the itinerary, which had useful links embedded, be shared with the committee.

43. Christmas 2022

Members received the Christmas Switch on and lighting report and considered the recommendations. It was noted that the Switch On event had been well received by the business community and all those who attended.

Resolved:

1. That the Christmas Switch on for 2023 be of a similar nature to that of 2022 and to arrange a meeting in June with the community groups who help support the event.
2. That the Christmas Lighting contract be extended for a further 2 years and the contractor, Lumin Events Ltd, be invited to the next meeting in March to present ideas for Christmas 2023.

44. Floral Displays Contract

Members noted that the contract for the summer floral displays is due to expire after the summer of 2023 and considered an extension for a further 2 years, available under the current contract, or to commence the tender process.

Resolved:

To extend the contract to Boverton Nurseries Ltd for a further 2 years for the provision of summer floral displays.

45. Energy Survey – The Gatehouse

Considered under item 41.3 above.

46. Vegan Market

Members considered the request from Vegan Markets to hold an event on Sunday, 4th June 2023.

Resolved:

To approve the request for a Vegan Market to hold an event on Sunday, 4th June 2023.

47. Items for Next Meeting

48. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 15th March 2023 in the Council Chamber and via Zoom online meetings.

CLOSE: This completed the business of the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed:

CHAIR

Date.....