

**NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*This is a record of decisions taken by the Town Clerk in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Council at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. All decisions were taken having consulted remotely by Zoom members of the Environmental Services Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and were in accordance with the views of those members.*

**Minutes of the meeting held at 18.00 on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
using the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform**

Technical issues resulted in the meeting starting at 18.10 hours.

**PRESENT:** Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Hallam, Meredith, Miah, and Stevens

Also present: Cllr J Birch

Officers: Mr S Carter (Interim Town Clerk) and Mrs J Thorneycroft (Administration Officer)

**9. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been submitted by Cllrs Alwahabi, Soan, Joyce (Chair), Haque and Ashraf.

**10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**11. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**

**RESOLVED:** That THE Vice Chair be authorised to sign the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**12. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE**

Circulated with the agenda was a report updating the committee on Northampton in Bloom.

The Administration officer presented the report and explained that through the Idverde Grounds Maintenance contract approximately 170 hanging baskets and 130 barrier baskets had been provided and maintained across Northampton town centre throughout the summer.

At the Northampton Town Council Executive Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 an allocated enhancement budget of £30,000 (£20,000 for new planters, hanging baskets etc. and £10,000 for installation costs and watering) was approved. Following this agreement, the locations listed below were identified as suitable places to increase the Northampton in Bloom scheme. Permissions and consents were obtained from the relevant bodies and additional floral planters were placed in the following wards:

**BOOTHVILLE WARD**

12 lamp post baskets on the approach roads to Lumbertubs Roundabout - Moulton Way, Kettering Road, Booth Rise and Lumbertubs Lane.

### **BROOKSIDE WARD**

4 barrier baskets at Penistone Road near Billing Brook Road

14 barrier baskets at Billing Brook Road near Brookside Community Hub and shops

12 barrier baskets at Billing Brook road bridge adjacent to the Lake opposite Retford Court

8 lamp post baskets at Lings Way and Goldings Junction.

### **BOOTHVILLE WARD and TALAVERA WARD**

16 lamp post basket at the Southfields Roundabout - Lings Way and Talavera Way approaches.

The garden surrounding the Southfields entrance sign has been planted and maintained.

### **TRINITY WARD**

12 barrier baskets installed at Kingsley Road opposite The White Elephant Pub and adjacent to the Racecourse

A large tiered planter was placed at Kingsley Road opposite the White Elephant Pub adjacent to the Racecourse

### **KINGSLEY WARD and PHIPPSVILLE WARD**

12 barrier baskets were installed at St Matthews Parade, Kingsley

### **CASTLE WARD**

18 lamp posts baskets located at Campbell Street and Barrack Road Junction

### **SEMILONG WARD**

1 large tiered planter at the entrance to the Racecourse on Barrack Road

Installation of 2 hanging baskets and heavy duty brackets at Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre

### **ST JAMES WARD**

2 large tiered floral planters within the shopping area at St James Road

3 large floral planters along the verge at Weedon Road

1 large planter installed in Althorp Road, off Weedon Road

### **CASTLE WARD**

55 hanging baskets were installed along the Wellingborough Road

7 large stone planters in Abington Street planted and maintained

The gardens around the Cobblers Last Statue in Abington Street planted and maintained

### **SPENCER WARD**

5 large planters around the Tintern Avenue/Gladstone Road junction have been planted and maintained.

The Northampton in Bloom scheme had commenced in early June and would finish when de-rig of the floral containers took place in mid –September.

The Administration Officer explained that unfortunately, this year it had not been possible to hold a Bloom Presentation and Awards Ceremony as many of the usual “It’s your Neighbourhood” community groups had been unable to meet and work together in the usual way due to the pandemic. It is hoped to resume the ceremony next year and encourage local businesses, residents and schools to take part.

Cllrs Joyce, Birch, Stevens and Meredith had volunteered to sit on a Northampton in Bloom. The first meeting would be held in September and the budget for next year's scheme needed to be confirmed as soon as possible to ensure floral orders can be made on time to allow seedling growth for next year.

Mrs Thorneycroft encouraged all councillors to share their thoughts regarding the introduction of bloom in their ward and asked them to take the following into consideration:

- likelihood of obtaining permission from the highways department – vicinity of nearby road junctions, will the planter obstruct any pavements or drivers view?
- ease of watering
- visibility
- how busy/what footfall is there in different locations
- height of floral containers – will people notice them?
- are the planters likely to get damaged or stolen?

Mrs Thorneycroft concluded by informing the committee that the feedback had been greatly positive and that the project had been delivered on budget and in time despite the rush due to the creation of the new town council.

Councillors had several suggestions for future locations and were asked to put these in writing to the Administration officer.

The Vice Chair thanked Mrs Thorneycroft and commented that he had thought the flowers had looked fantastic this summer.

**NOTED**

### **13. COVID MEMORIAL – ARBOUR OF TREES AT BECKETS PARK**

Cllr Birch presented her report which had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Birch explained that at a meeting of the shadow Town Council executive it was recommended that the Town Council would investigate a memorial to the residents of the town who were affected as a result of the pandemic.

This was now being taken forward by both the Community Services and Environmental Services Committees.

It was agreed there should be special reference to all the staff at Northampton General Hospital, for their dedication, professionalism and care for residents during the pandemic. The Community Service and Environmental Services Committees agreed to investigate the installation of trees and seating at Becketts Park, being the town park and near the hospital. This would be a lasting tribute to all who had worked so hard, those who had been gravely ill and those who had sadly died.

The Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the aforementioned committees met with Buddies of Becketts on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July at Becketts Park where they assessed the site. Areas used for community events were identified and were to be avoided. A flat area near the playground was agreed suitable, away from the road noise, a flat site, within easy reach of the hospital, with views towards the river and across the park.

A design that would include suitable trees and seating was agreed and there was an ambition to make a significant contribution to complement the existing public art in the park.

A number of actions were agreed by the group including contacting the university to see if Spatial Design students could work on designs. This would be a fantastic opportunity for their students to see their work actually built in a prominent public location.

Cllr Birch was thanked for her update.

#### **14. TOWN COUNCIL LITTER UPDATE**

The Administration Officer, Mrs Thorneycroft, had circulated an update on the initiatives the Town Council was involved in as part of improving her public realm from a litter perspective.

Mrs Thorneycroft explained that throughout the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> August a week of action to tidy up streets and unsightly areas took place across the town. Partners from Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID), West Northamptonshire Council, Northants Litter Wombles had joined together to pick litter and highlight the issues of litter.

As part of the campaign a number of events had taken place including:

- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August** – Northants Litter Wombles organised a History Walk which was attended by the Mayor
- **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July** - Cllr Stevens held a litter pick in the Headlands, Eastfield & Phippsville area. The pick was attended by Cllrs Turon, Miah and Joyce, members of the Northants Litter Wombles and the Mayor also attended.
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August** - a tidy day was organised by Northampton Town Centre BID, the event was supported by the Northants Litter Wombles, the Mayor, NTC, WNC and local businesses. On the day approximately 50 volunteers collected more than 100 bags of rubbish from known litter spots around the town centre.
- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August** – The Rectory Farm litter pick organised by Cllr Holland-Delamere
- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August** – The Trinity litter pick organised by Cllr Birch

Mrs Thorneycroft advised councillors that the Town Council had the necessary equipment that could be borrowed and encouraged them to hold their own picks in their wards.

**NOTED**

#### **15. ALLOTMENTS AND CLOSED CHURCHYARDS**

The Interim Town Clerk gave a verbal update on allotments and closed churchyards. Eight allotment sites had been passed to the town council as part of its creation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. However, the management remained with West Northants Council (WNC) as part of a contract they had with Veolia. WNC officers were in the process of drawing up an agency agreement between WNC and the town council to manage this arrangement. The contract with Veolia had a number of years left to run so a formal agreement would be required. It was explained that the Town Council was responsible for maintenance and that a budget was in place of £26,000.

It was suggested that toilets on allotments would be beneficial and that it would benefit all users and make them more accessible and inclusive. The Interim Town Clerk was asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of compostable toilets. These offered an environmentally friendly solution and did not need connecting to the sewage system.

With reference to closed churchyards, the arrangement was very similar, though at present these had not been transferred over. It had been agreed that work on the transfer would be deferred for a few years whilst the current contract was still in place.

**NOTED**

**16. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

Whilst not on the agenda Cllr Stevens gave a brief update on the propose climate change forum. Cllr Stevens advised that he and Cllr Joyce had met with officers to consider what action to take. The idea of an event on the Market Square in Spring time had been suggested, showcasing local environmental groups, technology etc. The precursor to this would be to invite these groups to a meeting to discuss the proposal with the ambition that this would be the foundations of the Climate Change Forum.

Cllr Andrews encouraged all committee members to contact local environmental groups that they knew or pass their details to him and the Interim Town Clerk.

**NOTED**

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 19.00 hours.

Signed.....Chair