



Whitworth
Town Council

Whitworth Town Council's

Minutes of the Environment and Wildlife Committee Meeting

Monday 13 January 2025, 1 pm, Council Chamber

13. Welcome by Chair

Attendees were welcomed by Cllr Kim Olaolu, Chair of the committee.

14. In attendance:

Members

Councillor Kim Olaolu (KO)

Councillor Scott Smith (SS)

Councillor Janet Whitehead (JW)

Sue Neilson (SN)

Richard Whittle (RW)

Councillor Sarah Rhodes (SR) *** from agenda point 6(vi)***

and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Mike Royds (MR), Ian Wright (IW)(LCC Treescapes) and Mick Holding.

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Kim Olaolu, permitted two additional items to be discussed as a matter of urgency.

15. Urgent item of business – Cllr Scott Smith

SS reported that the larch trees at Barlow Bottoms and along the cycleway to Britannia have been discovered to have been infected with a virus, and the Forestry Commission have instructed Lancashire County Council (LCC) to fell the trees to prevent further spread. He reported that the felled trees will be replaced, and the cost will be borne by the Forestry Commission. He was asked a number of questions including a map of the area affected, how mature will the replacement trees be, and will the cycle path be closed for these works to be carried out. SS stated that he would enquire regarding these questions and feedback the responses.

16. Urgent item of business – member of the public

A member of the public asked why Scout Moor II was not on the agenda and informed members about the Cubico Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion Report within an application containing 46 documents sent to the RBC Planning Department on 17 December

inviting comments by 21 January 2025. SN stated that Whitworth Town Council had removed the item from the agenda until the March update regarding Scout Moor II is published. SS stated that the full planning application will be responded to. JW advised the member of the public to attend Full Council on the 16th January and speak to councillors.

***** Councillor Scott Smith left the meeting *****

17. Election of Vice Chair

It was resolved that Cllr Janet Whitehead be appointed Vice Chair of the Environment and Wildlife Committee. This was moved by Councillor Kim Olaolu and seconded by Sue Nielson.

18. To approve minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2024, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the committee.

19. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting

None.

20. Updates from all members:

(i) Albert Mill and Spring Mill updates

Albert Mill – KO reported that she had been in communication with a planning enforcement officer at Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) with regards to Albert Mill.

He reported to KO that the Planning Inspectorate had quashed the notice following the appeal. The planning enforcement officer has met the developer and has been advised that a new application will be submitted to RBC for the diversion of the river, followed by an application for the development of the site. The planning enforcement officer is also in communication with the developer with regards to claims that hard core is being delivered to the site.

Action: Await further response from RBC and suggest to Whitworth Town Council that any impact on Biodiversity Net Gain is followed up.

(ii) Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF)

RW reported that he had received a quote from a contractor for remedial works to the area around Meadow Cottage, Healey Dell and will complete the application to LEF.

Action: await the submission of the application.

(iii) Water pollution at Cowm Reservoir

SN reported that she had been in communication with Dan Crook at United Utilities (UU) who had been liaising with the Environment Agency (EA). SN Explained issues at the reservoir including recent foaming from detergents, continued silt and sediment pollution and the revoking of a license for works at the quarry.

SN Explained that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) applies to new quarrying planning applications and requested that WTC build relationships with the quarry owners to develop ethical and sustainable quarrying practices in future.

Action: to find out more about the revoking of this license and any other updates by EA.

(iv) LancsCAN (Lancs Climate Action Network)

The clerk reported that WTC had approved a recommendation from the Environment and Wildlife Committee to join LancsCAN.

Action: none.

(v) Tree planting at Waingap Woods and Britannia

SN reported that 420 trees had been planted at Waingap Woods.

IW submitted a written report that the anticipated funding for Miyawaki Forest has had to be shelved but a contingency fund may be available later in the year. If this funding is secured, a family planting event will be organised at Waingap.

IW submitted a written report that stated that a Forestry Commission Inspector had noted that several larch trees at Britannia may be infected with a notifiable disease and that results were imminent from further testing by the Forest Commission.

Action: await details of funding and any action from the enforcement notice now received by LCC, confirmed by SS above.

*** Councillor Sarah Rhodes joined the meeting ***

(vi) Any other updates

A member of the public asked about the repair of local footpaths, and they said that they felt that any repairs to footpaths and stiles would be a real asset to the village.

RW reported that a number of trees have come down due to weather conditions and that if this continues, it may have an impact on the river environment and also may result in the loss of some species of wildlife. RW also reported on the slow process of losing the main weir, due to weather related incidents.

21. Any other business.

None.

22. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 14th April, 1pm, WTC Council Chamber.

23. Thanks for attendance and close of meeting

Attendees were thanked and the meeting was closed at 2.15pm.