

**NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held at 18.00 on 4th April 2022 in the
Town Council Committee Room at Northampton Guildhall**

PRESENT: Councillors Stevens (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Haque, Meredith, Miah, and Tarasiewicz

Also present: Cllr Purser and Mrs C Robertson-Marriott from the Climate Change Forum

Officers: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk)

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been submitted by Cllrs Hallam, Ashraf, Joyce and Soan.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**36. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 7th
FEBRUARY 2022**

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

37. CLIMATE CHANGE CAFÉ

Mrs Robertson-Marriott from the Climate Change Forum gave a brief presentation about the forthcoming Climate Change Café that the Town Council were supporting.

Mrs Robertson-Marriott explained that the Climate Change Café would be taking place over 3 Saturdays over the coming three months, with the first taking place over the Easter weekend. The café was to be located in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre. The idea of the café was to promote an environmental message, explain how people can save energy, recycle etc and to act as a space for debate.

Mrs Robertson-Marriott was thanked for her update.

NOTED

38. MAREFAIR HERITAGE PARK AND FOUR WATERSIDE PLANS

Kevin Langley, Head of Major Projects and Regeneration at WNC gave a presentation to cllrs over zoom on the plans for Marefair and Waterside. The sound quality on zoom was not entirely satisfactory.

Mr Langley explained that £24.9 million had been secured for projects in Northampton. These projects were:

- £24.9m funding from Government for the following projects:
- Town Centre Public Realm (£4.6m)
- 41 – 45 Abington Street (Former M&S Building £4.4m)
- 35 – 39 Abington Street (Former BHS Building £4.2m)
- Marefair Heritage Gateway (£2m)
- Four Waterside (£1.5m)
- 24 Guildhall Road Arts Centre (£1.75m)
- Extension of 78 Derngate (£400k)
- Emporium Way (£4.2m)
- St Peter’s Church and Old Black Lion (£315k)
- Skills and Social Enterprise Fund (£500k)
- Future High Street Fund Grant for the regeneration of Market Square - £8.4m

Focusing on St Peters and the old Black Lion Pub, Mr Langley explained that this was a joint project with the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) with funding of £2.6 million. It would bring back the former pub and create a new headquarters for the CCT. This project would upgrade and protect a heritage building and deliver a new public space in the centre of town. The project would also enhance the route through to the town centre from the railway station. Adjacent to the site was Waterside, a development opportunity with planned hotel, office and residential accommodation.

The Marefair Heritage Gateway aimed to bring in a new public space (2,196 sqm), commercial space and 80 new homes, again near the town centre. The total funding for this project was £34.5 million.

Mr Langley confirmed he and his officers were happy to attend future meetings in order to keep the council informed.

Mr Langley was thanked for attending.

NOTED

39. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE

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

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that following a meeting with Chris Carvell, Environmental Services Contract Manager at WNC it had been agreed that the most convenient way to move this project forward was by including a minor change notice to the existing Environment Services Contract which ran until 2028. The amendment to the contract had been set up to cover the majority of the additional Bloom works required by NTC, the works will be carried out by the Idverde team. Chris Carvell had agreed the changes and would be NTC’s Bloom contact going forward. The 7 planters and the planting area around the Cobblers Last would be planted and maintained as part of the scheme.

Where possible the following areas below had been included in the plan, though it was noted that there were a couple of changes that are in the process of being agreed.

Please note all locations are subject to permissions/consents being granted.

Ward	Councillor	Idea
Abington	Cllr Purser	Marefair x 2 planters either along the railings or in front of the Church or Saxon Court at the east end of St Peter's and perhaps at the entrance to Chalk Lane as part of the Northampton Gateway.

Boothville	Cllr Lane	As per Summer 21 - lamppost baskets around the mini roundabout by the Lumbertubs pub and its approaches - Kettering Road North - Booth Rise and Lumbertubs Lane.
Briar Hill	Cllr Connolly	2 square floral planters adjacent to the roundabout – Rothersthorpe Road and Hunsbarrow Road leading to Briar Hill.
Castle	Cllr Alwahabi	Planters in Wellingborough road and Park Avenue South areas
Castle	Cllr Haque	Corner of St Georges street off Barack road, Pocket park in Spring Boroughs, corner of Lorne Road and top of Cowper street 7 large stone planters in Abington Street planted and maintained The gardens around the Cobblers Last Statue in Abington Street planted and maintained. Barrier baskets planters as per 2021 plus hanging baskets in Wellingborough Road.
Eastfield	Cllr Joyce	Planters near the row of shops in the Broadmead Avenue area. Planting arrangements (brick planters) near shops at Lakeview.
Headlands	Cllr Miah	Floral planter outside the Headlands pub, 2nd priority is on the lamppost baskets outside the coop and parade of shops at Broadway East
Park	Cllr Kilbride	lamppost baskets or planter at Bridgewater Drive near shops, wild flower areas at 2 x pocket parks
Parklands	Cllr Hallam	Barrier baskets near Tesco express in coppice drive/Kettering road, by Lumbertubs pub, anything by Morrison's on Kettering road
Phippsville	Cllr Stevens	As per Summer 21 hanging baskets on the barrier opposite the White Elephant pub on Kingsley Park Terrace
Rectory Farm	Cllr Holland-Delamere	Floral lamppost or barrier baskets various areas suggested
Rushmills	Cllr Soan	Billing Road East area and surrounding area
Semilong	Cllr. Les Marriott	3 tier planter at Hester Street outside Co Op, Investigate the possibility of hanging baskets at Doctors Surgery. Hanging baskets at Alliston Gardens community centre
Spencer	Cllr G Eales	as per last year the five existing planters and areas around the shops on the Gladstone Road
St James	Cllr Ashraf	As per Summer 21, Planters and plants on the railings plus planters in St James Square
Talavera	Cllr Meredith	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	Cllr Birch	10x Barrier boxes, 3 x three tier planters - various areas suggested

Purchase Orders to plant the town centre (NTC owned) floral containers were agreed in November and have been raised through Idverde services. The budget for this element of bloom was in the process of being transferred to the town council as part of the events budget as from 1st April 2022. The full budget = £52,000 plants ordered for summer planting = £19,543 therefore amount to be transferred = £32547.

The provisional planting order placed with Plantscape at the beginning of the year had been confirmed and the fully planted up containers would be installed in early June.

The Assistant Town Clerk was thanked for her report.

40. NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

The Chair briefly explained that he was working on a carbon reduction plan for the town council. This would inform the town council going forward and look at how it could make a positive impact across the town.

The issue of electric vehicle charging points was brought up. Access to charging points was thought to be a crucial element of any plan for WNC and it was thought useful if a someone from WNC could brief the town council on their plans for chargers.

NOTED

41. MOTION TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS SCHEME

Circulated with the agenda was a report compiled by the Clerk at the request of the Chair.

The Chair had asked the Clerk to provide a report asking the committee to consider the implementation of an Environmental Grants Scheme to be managed and administered by the committee.

The Clerk highlighted that the committee had a budget of £50,000 of which a proportion could be allocated to support local environmental initiatives should the committee think this is worthwhile.

The Clerk explained that it was not uncommon for town and parish councils to facilitate projects for a specific area, in this case Environmental, through grants. However, consideration would need to be given as to the criteria and ensuring that any projects met the goals of the committee and the Climate Emergency that the council has declared.

If the Committee were minded to pursue this proposal further they would need to consider:

- Aims and objectives of the Grants Scheme
- Amount allocated
- Criteria for applying
- Whether to focus on a specific area or leave it broad
- Maximum amount available
- Match funding requirement

The committee agreed that a grants scheme could be really positive and should be looked at further. The committee wanted there to be a clear policy to consider to ensure the grants had a focus. It was agreed that this would come back with more detail to a future meeting.

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 19.39 hours.

Signed.....Chair