

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Environment Sub Committee was held virtually via Zoom Video Conference on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 18:00

Present: Councillors P Brown; J Cole; C Doyle; V Hufford; B Luckham; S McAdam (Ex-Officio); P Pearce; T Shrapnel; S Sweek (Chairman); K Webb (Ex-Officio).

In Attendance: Mr Chris Jordan

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Doyle and S Gifford.

45. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

46. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Environment Sub Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (M5). It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve and adopt these minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

47. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

There was none.

48. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Corporate Officer updated Members of the following:

- A Huntingdon Refill scheme had been set up under Huntingdon In Bloom. Options for holding a virtual launch event were investigated as an in-person event wouldn't be possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. The scheme was otherwise currently on hold.
- The Eco Facebook page was active. It was noted that this page would become more active as the sub-committee's projects progressed.
- Options for calculating the Council's carbon footprint were being considered, to allow the sub-committee to track the impact of its activities.
- An audit of the uniforms worn by HTC staff was underway, to ensure new uniforms for future crematorium staff would be as eco-friendly as possible.

- The eco fair event had been postponed. It was suggested this could be held in Spring 2021. Potential stallholders were being kept on file until a date for the event was set.
- A draft of the Climate Action Plan has been produced, and would be updated as the sub-committee moved forwards with its projects.

A Member questioned how water refills would be managed safely. It was explained that as the Town Council venues were currently closed, water refills were not available. Full risk assessments would be produced as and when the Refill points reopened.

Members asked if options for eco-friendly disposal of face masks could be researched, and requested that information on the correct disposal of face masks be published on the Council's social media profiles, as well as information on using washable masks instead of disposables. A Member questioned if the Estates Team were able to safely deal with any masks left in the council's sites. It was explained that the Estates Team would use litter pickers and gloves and would dispose of used masks in the same way as other hazardous materials such as syringes.

#### 49. **CARBON REDUCTION MEMORIALISATION**

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk regarding carbon reduction memorialisation. The report outlined the carbon emissions impact of importing stone for memorials, as well as ethical considerations including use of child labour in some countries.

It was noted that it was intended for the new crematorium and cemetery to be as eco-friendly as possible, and Members agreed that the carbon footprint of the imported stone should be considered.

It was suggested that those wishing to install memorials with imported stone would be subject to a 'carbon tax' which would be put towards planting trees to help offset the emissions.

Members questioned how this would be enforced, as families wishing to install a memorial are restricted to memorials offered by the local stonemasons. It was explained that the restrictions would be set out in the council's memorial requirements, and communicated to local stonemasons to help them to advise families.

Members also questioned the cost difference between imported and UK stone memorials. It was noted that this would be researched and discussions would take place with local stonemasons before any new policy as introduced.

A Member also suggested including restrictions on imported flowers for funerals. It was noted that floral displays left at the site would be composted.

It was then proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to adopt item 2.5 of the report – to adopt a low carbon high ethical standard approach to memorialisation within the cemetery, and

**RESOLVED** to recommend that the Cemetery & Crematorium Sub Committee adopt point 3.2(2.5) of the report and implement point 2.6.

50. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

Members were asked if there were any suggestions for projects to be actioned while other projects were on hold due to Covid-19. Members were keen to keep up an online presence for the Council while events etc. were not possible.

The Town Clerk also noted that the lockdown had highlighted areas to help reduce the Council's carbon footprint through reducing travel, including home working and online sub-committee meetings.

It was suggested that Members bring any further ideas for future projects for the sub-committee to the next meeting.

51. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be scheduled in September/October 2020 (date TBC).

**CHAIRMAN**