

**Appleton Parish Council,
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting July 31st 2018.
1.30pm Appleton Parish Hall**

Councillors in attendance: Judith Walker, Ken Arnett, Gerry Palmer, Sharon Harris,

Officers in Attendance: Kevin McCready WBC

Parish Ranger, David, from 2.25pm.

Apologies: Cllr Judith Wheeler

Environment Committee Chair.

It was agreed that Judith Walker (JW) should take over as Chair of the Committee,

Budget

There was concern over what had been spent and what bills were still awaited also whether any money was available for the Committee to spend without reference back to the full PC.

Action: JW to go over the details with Joanne,

Wildflower planting

2018.

Kevin McCready (KMCC) reported that the wildflower areas were seeded in June but have not germinated well due to the hot dry weather. Cost was around £2000. In response to questions he explained that the big displays in Westbrook areas were paid for by Homes England and some by 106 money. The cost is 70p per m² and all Parishes paid the same.

Action: ascertain exact cost outstanding

2019

JW suggested the verge on Dingle Lane at Wrights Green would be a place where wildflowers would be in keeping. KMCC said the planting near Stud Farm and New Lane was not very successful and Dingle Lane could be considered instead next year if suitable.

Action: KMCC to check.

The Borough Council team and its responsibilities.

KMCC reported that the South Warrington team was down from 3 to between 2 and 3 because some members of his full team of 20 were on long term sickness absence.

The responsibilities were grass cutting in summer and leaf clearing in autumn. He noted that the leaves were shedding early this year. The team also emptied the litter bins, and dealt with fly tipping and graffiti. There was no co-ordination with the Parish Ranger.

Action: KMCC to get action to deal with the unsightly green paint used to cover graffiti at Bridge Lane shops.

Bulb planting 2018 for 2019

Bulbs are planted between October and December and the order needs to be in by September. The bulb planting machine cannot be used in places where there are signs, bollards and trees blocking access. Last year we had planted on Longwood Road near Chessington Close, opposite the Thorn Inn and on Cobbs Lane.

KMcC presented a printout of the available mixes which vary in price from £10 m2 for full size daffodils like those planted last year; £15 m2 for mini daffs and crocus as at Bridge Lane; and up to £30 m2 for more colourful mixes with tulips. Though very attractive the latter did not last for many years. Some of the mixes have bulbs which flower into the early summer. £5000 had previously been put in the budget for bulb planting.

Action 1: KMcC to send the website link with details to JW to pass on to other members

Action 2: Councillors to consider possible sites and these to be sent to KMcC to check

Action 3: Environment Committee to bring recommendations Parish Council at the September meeting.

Planters.

The idea of flower decorated 'Welcome to Appleton' signs had been considered previously but not pursued. KMC said there would be no problems on WBC owned verges as long as sight lines were not blocked. Watering had to be considered. Some planters have water reservoirs but the PC might need to get a watering equipment. It was noted with interest that Birchwood Town Council had 8 full time staff to carry out environmental work!

Action 1: KMcC to send details of recommended suppliers.

Action 2: JW check details of the contract recently entered into with All Seasons Ground Maintenance for the planters and garden on Bridge Lane

Knotweed

KMcC reported that the knotweed on the Rugby Field was being dealt with by spraying. This was done in the Autumn so that it was absorbed into the roots after the growing season was over. It could take seven years to clear and was a problem they were dealing with across the Borough.

Miscellaneous items raised

- KA suggested planting wallflowers which have a longer flowering season than bulbs
- SH noted that the path from Waterside to London Road was overgrown and might be a future project
- With resident agreement it would be nice to plant at the Dale Lane sheltered bungalows although this is not on the main thoroughfare, either bulbs or planters.
- Walton Lea is no longer available for help at the moment.

Date of next meeting

Monday September 3rd at 5.15 at the Parish Hall. This meeting was subsequently cancelled.