

**Appleton Parish Council,
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting October 30th 2018.
5.45pm – 7.15. 75 Grappenhall Road.**

Councillors in attendance:

Judith Walker, Ken Arnett, Sharon Harris, Gerry Palmer, Judith Wheeler.

ITEM 1

Projects for 2019 and the budget requirement for 2019/20.

General Discussion.

There was consensus that we should keep spending low as far as possible because of impending expenses re the Draft Local Plan and because the present precept will bring in less money next year due to changes in the way Band D equivalents are calculated.

Uncertainty about what items our budget covers is a concern. There was discussion about costs relating to bus shelters, grit bins, replacement litter bins, Ranger equipment etc; also where earmarked contingency funds such as, for extra grass cutting or bus shelter repairs should appear in the Council budget.

Agreed : the Parish Council should set terms of reference for the Environment Committee which are reflected in the budget headers. **Action Gerry**

2019/20 budget for regular maintenance work

Judith Walker presented an update of spending from this year's budget and an outline 2019/20 budget for discussion. Maximum spending on regular maintenance proposed by JW amounted to £13,060 and this was reduced to £11,060 after discussion

£ 3,000	contingency for grass cutting as previously.
£ 1,500	contingency added for repair and maintenance of bus shelters and phone boxes. This amount had been set for bus shelters in previous budgets and repairs were now being paid for out of the Environment budget.
£ 150	for Appleton Thorn as previously
£ 910	for maintenance of planters and garden in Bridge Lane.
£ 2,500	as an estimate for wild flower planting
£ 4,000	as an estimate for bulb planting reduced to £2000 maximum
£ 1,000	for extra maintenance work which might arise around the Parish
£11,060	

2019/20 budget for new projects for 2019.

1. Planters

The idea of flower planters at the 'Appleton' signs had been raised previously. After discussion it was agreed that the impact would not be worth the expense added to which the annual maintenance costs would be considerable. The idea of putting in customised Welcome to Appleton signs at future date would be a better option.

Agreed no action at this time

2. Heritage signs

The idea of putting up signs to commemorate interesting historical points in the Parish, possibly leading to a Heritage Trail, was discussed. This would fit in with the Lyons Lane local history phone box project now underway.

JW reported that WBC had agreed to build a plinth for a notice board on Birchdale Road where the old Bridgwater Canal Wharf had been, using some of the sets removed when the road was resurfaced. She showed a plan of the proposal and said the WBC Officers seemed very interested in the idea.

Agreed: that we ask the Parish Council to take on the project of installing a history information board at Birchdale Wharf with the objective of having it completed in 2019. Further 'waymarks' to be considered if this is successful.

Action: Bring to full Council. Judith Wheeler to discuss design and likely cost with WBC.

3. Cleaning street signs

Agreed that this would be worthwhile – an improvement to the look of the area visible to all residents. **Action:** Find out whether WBC can still do this and what the cost would be.

4. Wildflowers

Agreed: Explore the possibility with WBC of additional areas - Red Lane near the allotments and Dingle Lane at Wrights Green junction. **Action.** JW to contact Kevin McCready.

ITEM 2

Phone Boxes

Judith Wheeler and Sharon Harris reported that there is still work outstanding – a faulty door at the Lyons Lane box, painting of floors and ceiling, and some other work. The signs are ready and just need fixing,

Parish Ranger, David Pearce, was looking at this to see what needed doing and what he could do. There would be some extra spending involved but funds were available in the Environment Budget. The 2018/19 budget has £1000 budgeted for this project, £500 per box, and there is still money unspent.

END

Minutes compiled by Judith Walker