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Community Way
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison - Clerk

Cllrs Cole & Montague

Voting Members: 3

In Attendance: Cllrs Gallagher & Wallington.

Not Present: Cllr Kaur

EA1318/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Linhart & Vassiliou.

EA1319/17 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA1320/17 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA1321/17 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

EA1322/17 Matters Arising

EA1316/17 – Greenspace Action Plans for Stones Orchard and Croxleyhall Woods. A Cllr asked whether the Council had heard from Countryside Management Services (CMS) regarding the submissions that the Council had submitted. The Clerk advised that nothing further had been heard from CMS.

EA1323/17 Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and invited any comments. The Clerk advised Members that the new Ranger, Antony Bassenger, had started with the Council the previous day, Monday 2 October.

A Cllr enquired whether the footpath leading towards Byewaters from Common Moor could be added to the works list. The Clerk advised that the footpath is not a public right of way and is probably on TRDC owned land and as such would not fall into the overall auspices of the works undertaken elsewhere in the parish. However, the Clerk added that he would look into the matter and establish whether an operational arrangement with TRDC, including an appropriate remuneration, could be arrived at.

A Cllr raised a matter of an overgrown hedge at the end of New Road which was encroaching over the pavement making it difficult for pedestrian to pass. The Clerk advised that it was unclear whether this hedge is part of The Green or from a private residence but the matter will be looked into to see what appropriate measures can be taken.

There were no other comments.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for October 2017 be noted.

EA1324/17 Parish Council Allotment for Preschool Age Children

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Cole to elaborate. Cllr Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter as he is also a current allotment holder.

Cllr Cole referred Members to the Supporting Paper which was circulated with the Agenda. He added that there were a number of benefits to the proposal for both the Parish Council and for the children that would get involved with the project. From the children's point of view it would provide educational benefits in understanding how food is grown, it would provide a structured outdoor activity with associated benefits of vitamin D gain and provide life lessons.

A Cllr asked whether the expected input from the Rangers could be met against other necessary work requirements. The Clerk advised that the Senior Ranger was satisfied that their input can be achieved and balanced against other duties.

The proposal was welcomed and met with support.

Resolved:

- That the E&A Committee
 - Approve of the principle of renting (and paying the annual rent of) an allotment at Barton Way adjacent to the Council offices;
 - Approve an annual budget of £1,000 (excluding Ranger time) to implement this proposal, and seeks its inclusion in the Council budget.
- That the proposal be implemented in early 2018 with the first sessions with children are planned for Easter 2018, subject to the availability of an allotment and preparing it in advance.
- That the scheme is reviewed for uptake and interest after the first and second years of operation to ensure that it is worth continuing.
- That the matter be referred to full Council for ratification.

EA1325/17 Budgets 2018/19

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that he had previously circulated a draft budget (v2 dated 13 September) for Members to peruse. The Clerk added that he had received two new budget proposals during the course of the day, one submitted by Cllr Wallington for an Infant School Sun Flower Competition (£250) and one submitted by Cllr Gallagher for the provision of micro-habitats to create biodiversity (£1,000).

Both Cllrs gave an overview of their proposals, see attached.

The Clerk brought to Members attention that following a discussion following a recent Flowers 4 Croxley meeting, comment had been made about securing ongoing funding. The Clerk added that given that the Flowers 4 Croxley was a partnership arrangement and given the recent Council's decision for the Environment and Amenity Committee to take forward a proposal for further beautification of Croxley Green, it was very appropriate that the Council allocates funding to Flowers 4 Croxley to continue and further develop that initiative. Accordingly, a sum of £500 had been added into the budget for the Committee to consider. For the benefit of new Members, the Clerk gave the background to Flowers 4 Croxley.

Resolved

- That the Infant School Sun Flower Competition (£250) and the provision of micro-habitats to create biodiversity sites (£1,000) be incorporated into the E&A Budget.

- That £500 be included in the E&A budget for Flowers 4 Croxley.

EA1326/17 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36pm

Budget 2018 - 2019

submitted by: Cllr Derek Wallington
 date: 3rd October 2017

insert Committee name: Planning And Development

Budget Description	Detail	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Prize's £250	Infant School Sun Flower Competition.	£250			

Totals £250

Brief Background/Justification: (use separate sheet of paper for 'Project' / 'Event' detail)

Dear Councillors I would like to promote a sunflower competition in the 2018/19 Budget, To include our four infants schools in Croxley Green, Little Green School / Malvernway School / Yorkmead School / Harvey Road School. I have been incontact with all four schools and they have expressed a wish to take part in the competition. I would also like the winner for tallest sunflower to receive £100 prize, the second £75 Third £50 and Fourth £25, Giving prizes in this way allows every school to receive a prize. If permitted I would like to provide the seeds for competition. I would also like to propose that the competition is only for one year to start, and if successful I would like to see the competition continue to 2019/20. I would suggest the seeds are distributed to the schools at start of April 2018 and the measuring to take place with the help of our Rangers just before the schools break for summer. I believe the schools will gain in two ways, One from the fun and enjoyment I hope the children will have intaking part, and Two the small donation the schools will receive

Budget 2018 - 2019

submitted by: Andrew Gallagher

date: 03-Oct-17

insert Committee name: Environment & Amenity

Budget Description	Detail	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
E&A Capital & Projects	constructing micro-habitats for biodiversity	1,000.00	tba	tba	1,000.00

Totals

Brief Background/Justification: (use separate sheet of paper for 'Project' / 'Event' detail)

Proposal to investigate (with partners) constructing micro-habitats (such as the Ulster insect hotel habitat) to encourage biodiversity. Aim would be to partner with (for example) Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and local landowners (for example Hertfordshire County Council as property owner for local primary schools, or TRDC for local wildlife sites) and construct micro-habitats as a teaching resource as well as supporting local wildlife. Work to be undertaken by Rangers + volunteers

Building an Insect Hotel Habitat



Ulster Wildlife Trust

Why Build One?

Our gardens are home to a wide range of living creatures. An average garden could hold over 2,000 different species of insect! With all this diversity of life it is good to know that very few creatures cause significant damage to our prized flowers, fruit and vegetables, the ones that gardeners call pests. Even better, there are many more creatures that help us control the pests. By providing the right habitats we can greatly increase the number of beneficial insects in the garden. Some wild invertebrates, such as bumblebees and solitary bees, are declining in numbers in the wider countryside, so by providing homes we can contribute to their conservation.



The Insect Hotel on display is built entirely from recycled materials. The main structure is discarded pallets, and much of the additional wood is the product of routine woodland management operations. This sheet tells you how to build a similar habitat, but if this is too ambitious, there are plenty of ideas which can be used on a smaller scale in any garden.

Where to site your habitat

Many invertebrates like cool damp conditions, so you can site your habitat in semi shade, by a hedge or under a tree. Putting the habitat close to other wildlife features, such as an overgrown hedge, a shrubbery or a pond will make it easier for small creatures to find it. Not all creatures like to be in the shade: solitary bees like a warm sunny spot, so put tubes for bees on the sunniest side of the habitat, or put them elsewhere in the garden. Choose a level, even surface: the hotel may end up fairly heavy, so will need a firm base.

The basic structure

We used old pallets for the basic structure. The more you can use recycled or reclaimed materials the better. The habitat does not need to be more than 5 pallets high. Our pallets were all the same size. If you place the bottom pallet upside down, this should create larger openings at the ends, which can be used for a hedgehog house. Although the structure should be stable, you might want to secure each pallet to the one below.

Filling the gaps

There are many different ways to fill the gaps in the structure, here are some suggestions -

- **Dead wood.** Dead wood is an increasingly rare habitat as we tidy our gardens, parks and amenity woodlands. It is essential for the larvae of wood-boring beetles, such as the stag beetle. It also supports many fungi, which help break down the woody material. Crevices under the bark hold centipedes and woodlice.
- **Holes for solitary bees.** There are many different species of solitary bee, all are excellent pollinators. The female bee lays an egg on top of a mass of pollen at the end of a hollow tube, she then seals the entrance with a plug of mud. A long tube can hold several such cells. Hollow stems, such as old bamboo canes, or holes drilled into blocks of wood, make good nest sites for solitary bees. Holes of different diameters mean many different species can be catered for. You can make a home for solitary bees by collecting old canes or pieces of hollow plant stems, then placing in a length of plastic drain-pipe or a section from a plastic drinks bottle. You can also build a wooden shelter, similar to a bird box. Solitary bees like warmth, so place your habitat in a sunny spot, perhaps on a south-facing wall. Bees use differing ways to seal their egg chambers: look out for canes blocked with dried mud or bits of leaf.
- **Frog hole.** Frogs eat many slugs and other garden pests. Although they need a pond to breed in, they can spend most of the year out of water. We use stone and tiles as these provide the cool damp conditions amphibians need. Newts may also take advantage of these conditions. Amphibians need a frost free place to spend the winter; this could be in the centre of our habitat, inside the base of a dry-stone wall, under a pile of rubble or deep underground.
- **Straw & Hay.** These provide many opportunities for invertebrates to burrow in and find safe hibernation sites.
- **Dry Leaves.** More homes for a variety of invertebrates; this mimics the litter on the forest floor.
- **Loose bark.** Beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice all lurk beneath the decaying wood and bark. Woodlice and millipedes help to break down woody plant material. They are essential parts of the garden recycling system.
- **Crevice.** Many garden invertebrates need a safe place to hibernate in through the winter. Our insect hotel has many different types of crannies and crevices that different species of invertebrate can hide in over winter.
- **Lacewing homes.** Lacewings and their larvae consume large numbers of aphids, as well as other garden pests. You can make a home for lacewings by rolling up a piece of corrugated cardboard and putting it in a waterproof cylinder, such as an old lemonade bottle.



- **Ladybirds.** Ladybirds and their larvae are champion aphid munchers! The adults hibernate over winter, they need dry sticks or leaves to hide in.
- **Bumblebees.** Every spring queen bumblebees search for a site to build a nest and found a new colony. An upturned flowerpot in a warm sheltered place might be used.
- **Nectar producing plants.** Why not plant some nectar-rich flowers around your habitat. These provide essential food for butterflies, bees and many other flying insects.

Good Luck with your Insect Hotel! If you want any further information please contact the Ulster Wildlife Trust on 028 4483 0282 or email info@ulsterwildlifetrust.org