

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: S Browning, J Bryson, T Gibbs, P Kelly, L Moores, P Moores, F Partridge, H Partridge, T Philp, P Tilzey, N Tucker (part)

**Non-voting Members present:** Cllrs L Deely, P La Broy, D Towl, B Willingham

**Officers present:** Mrs D Bennett – Town Clerk  
Mr K Cornwell – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)  
Mr S Hayes – Facilities Manager (FM)

**Public present:** One

- ES/13/18**      **Election of Chairman**  
Nominations were received: Cllr J Bryson was proposed and seconded  
**Resolved:** That Cllr J Bryson be and is hereby elected as Chairman of the Environmental Services and Highways Committee for the ensuing year
- ES/14/18**      **Election of Vice-Chairman**  
Nominations were received: Cllr P Moores was proposed and seconded  
**Resolved:** That Cllr P Moores be and is hereby elected as Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Services and Highways Committee for the ensuing year
- ES/15/18**      **To receive and accept apologies for absence**  
Cllrs B Dixon and I Mason
- ES/16/18**      **To receive registered and non-registered disclosable pecuniary interests and non-registerable interests**  
None
- ES/17/18**      **Dispensations: to consider requests for dispensations**  
None
- ES/18/18**      **Minutes: to receive, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Environmental Services and Highways Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**  
**Resolved:** That with the amendments listed below, that the Minutes were a true and accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman  
*ES/07/18 second sentence, after canoes add 'from the canal'. At the end of the sentence add 'The fire service were happy to have water in the river and Adventure International has alarms on the front of the building to alert to any flood surge. Letter from Cllr L Moores as Appendix A'*
- ES/19/18**      **Maximum 15 minutes for public present to make comments concerning the business of the Environmental Services and Highways Committee**  
Comments/questions were:  
Question - had a meeting with the Environment Agency regarding the Weir been held? – the response was No.  
An observation that 'anglers had not said that canoes should leave the canal'  
Sand dunes (item ES/26/18) There were over 30 species, some endangered, that occupy the sand dunes and it was thought that it would be useful if the Town

Council had a representative on the Bude Valley Management Advisory Group that met twice a year.

**ES/20/18**      **To consider a request from Denise Wellington Funeral Services to contribute to the invoice for a mini digger**

Discussion took place regarding the reason for the request; a grave digger hit a drain, another grave had to be dug and due to time constraints they hired a digger. **Resolved:** To decline the request from Denise Wellington Funeral Services for the Council to pay 50% of the cost

**ES/21/18**      **Mallard Cottage – to discuss the updated position including correspondence received and any associated actions and expenditure**

No further correspondence received. The Chairman summarised that the matter had been dealt with and the outcome was being maintained satisfactorily therefore this did not need to be added to the next agenda.

**ES/22/18**      **The Weir – to consider correspondence received and associated actions and expenditure**

No further correspondence had been received; no offer for a site meeting had been received.

*Cllr N Tucker joined the Meeting*

**Resolved:** That the Office write a slightly more assertive letter to the Environment Agency

**ES/23/18**      **Deed of easement rear of the Crescent – to reconsider the approach now that the deeds have been located and take appropriate action**

The RFO advised that due to workload he had not yet written the letters. The Chairman agreed to defer the matter until a future meeting.

**ES/24/18**      **Enforcement Officer – to receive an update on the position**

No further updates were available, the Town Clerk advised that other Councils were in a similar position and clarification was awaited from CC.

**ES/25/18**      **To receive an update on finger posts and bicycle stands**

CC had written advising they were about to order the new finger post signs, discussion took place regarding the wording on each sign. The Committee agreed, that the reply to CC was sent as per the wording discussed for each post and that they were advised that the bicycle rack outside Spencer Thorn needed repairing.

**ES/26/18**      **To discuss the future management of the Sand Dunes**

Discussion took place regarding;  
the options to reduce the height of the dunes  
the dunes are owned by Cornwall Council (CC)  
lowering the gabion baskets  
the dunes were not natural  
Cornwall Wildlife Trust had carried out a survey last year and 76 species had been identified in the dunes  
Bude Marine Group were carrying out a survey that would incorporate the lock gates, dunes and breakwater.

It was asked if lowering the dunes would impact the amount of species, it was felt that expert advice should be sought but that the rate at which they were lowered would be crucial and it had to be done sensibly.

Fires and litter on the dunes were making the area more nutrient rich, which was encouraging the growth of brambles and nettles, which increased the height.

Correspondence from the Harbour Master was read to the Committee by Cllr Willingham:

Since the introduction of the dunes, the harbour has gradually lost more and more sand. In times of onshore winds instead of being blown across Summerleaze car park, into the river where it would come back down across the beach and harbour, it now blows onto the dunes where it stays thus not replenishing the beach etc. We are seeing more and more bedrock exposed through the moorings rendering some of them now unserviceable. I feel the dunes were a great mistake but I appreciate doing away with them is not practical. However, I feel some sort of management plan must be put in place taking them down dramatically and then preventing them growing any more. What about the Gabion baskets in the river which now cause the river mouth to narrow dramatically bringing a whole lot more problems?

**Resolved:** That interested Councillors form a working group to meet with Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency to work together towards an effective management plan of the sand dunes

**ES/27/18**

**Parking Permits – to consider issuing extra permits**

The Council issue 30 permits and have a waiting list. The Doctors surgery at Neetside had requested additional permits.

**Resolved:** That 4 additional permits are specifically provided for Neetside Surgery

**ES/28/18**

**2017/18 Budget Monitoring report – Year End**

The report was noted

The meeting closed at 8.19pm

Chairman's Signature.....Date.....