

Madeley Town Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee of Madeley Town Council held on Monday 22 January 2024 commencing at 6.30 pm at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley.

PRESENT: Councillors: **D White (Chair), J Jones and J Loveridge**
Alison Hinks, Town Clerk

E24/043 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Meadows (prior commitment). Cllrs C Ashan and S Highway were not present at the meeting.

Resolved:

The Environment Committee unanimously resolved to accept the apologies received.

E24/044 **Remarks from the Chair**

Nothing to report.

E24/045 **Public Discussion**

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. The period which is designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes.

One member of the public was present at the meeting who raised concerns that one of the solar light battery packs on the high street hanging baskets

E24/046 **Declarations of Interest**

No declaration made.

E24/047 **Minutes**

Resolved:

Councillors unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023 were confirmed and approved for signature (see Appendix A).

E24/048 **Finance Appendix B-E.**

048.1 **Budget Comparison report**

The Finance Officer had prepared the Financial Comparison Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023 for information (see Appendix B).
Noted.

048.2 **Expenditure Transactions**

The Finance Officer had prepared a list of all expenditure transaction for the period of 1 April 2023 – 31 December 2023 (see Appendix C).
Noted.

048.3 **Cashbook update 2023**

The Finance Officer had prepared the Budget Cashbook Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023 for information (see Appendix D).

Noted.

E24/049 Community Action Team Update - Aaron England and Brett West, Telford & Wrekin Council

Aaron England updated the Environment Committee on the plans for the new CAT contract commencing 1 April 2024. Madeley CAT have bought into 1 x Environment Liaison Officer and 2 CAT operatives to cover Madeley, Sutton Hill and Woodside. The work carried out by the CAT is enhancement work, over and above the idverde core contract. A revised works programme is currently being worked on and will be presented to a future Environment Committee. Cllr White questioned if the new contract from 1 April 2024 has enough operative to carry out the work across the ward.

Bret West updated the Environment Committee on the recent work identified in Halesfield, including cleaning pathways, cutting back hedges. Idverde will continue to review the area.

Councillors suggested that Aaron England and Brett West attends the Environment Committee every 4 months.

Cllr White questioned how idverde work output for core teams in monitored? Aaron England confirmed that there are targets and PIs in place. Cllr White asked Brett West to pass on thanks to the Sutton Hill CAT team for recent work carried out in the area.

E24/050 Madeley Community Orchard.

The Town Clerk updated the Environment Committee on the management responsibilities for Madeley Community Orchard which, as the SLA between Madeley United Charities and Madeley Town Council and the SLA between Madeley Town Council and Madeley Community Orchard Group have now expired, is the responsibility of Madeley United Charities who hold the covenant for the ground.

Cllr White said that it was disappointing to get to this situation, but Madeley Community Orchard Group had not attended 3 meetings organised by Madeley Town Council to discuss the future management of the space. Members of the Madeley Community Orchard Group had said that they were unable to manage the workload at the orchard and to help with this, Madeley United Charities had called a meeting of any person, group or organisation interested in forming a new Orchard Working Group. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled as the Chair of Madeley United Charities was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. Cllr Jones said that the proposed new group would have captured a greater audience and support for the management of the orchard.

Cllr Jones said that currently Madeley Town Council fund the PL insurance, water charges and grass cutting for Madeley Community Orchard but if the Town Council is not re-issued with a SLA to manage the site, this will have to change and Madeley Community Orchard Group will have to apply for a grant via the town Council's application process, mirroring the way other community groups are supported.

Cllr Jones confirmed that there was a meeting of Madeley United Charities on 23 January 2024 and the future management of Madeley Community Orchard will be discussed and decided.

Cllr White expressed concern about the removal of the bridge and safety barriers around the pond, which is now a health & safety issues for user of Madeley Community Orchard. Cllr Jones also expressed concerns about Madeley Town Council renewing the PL insurance on behalf of Madeley Community Orchard Group.

Resolved:

The Environment Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Full Council that following the outcome of the Madeley United Charities Meeting on 23 January 2024 that Madeley Town Council do not take over the responsibility of the management of Madeley Community Orchard.

E24/051

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust.

The Town Clerk reported that the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust are still requesting a board representative from Madeley Town Council. Cllr Jones to speak to Cllr Ashan about this.

E24/052

Planning Applications.

The Deputy Town Clerk had put together a list of current planning application in Madeley, Sutton Hill and Woodside, which were presented to the Environment Committee.

Noted.

Cllr Jones expressed concern about cars parking on the pavement outside The Anstice which is damaging the block paving. Cllr White said that the parking in front of Russell Square makes the road too narrow for 2 cars to pass together.

E24/053

Community Action Team update November 2023 – January 2024

The Committee received an action report from Telford & Wrekin Council Community Action Team.

Noted.

E24/054

Police Charter Action Plan Review

The Committee received reports from West Mercia Police showing priorities in Madeley and Woodside for the forthcoming 3 months.

Noted.

E24/055

Hanging Baskets and High Street Planters

The Committee received an update on the communication sent to residents and businesses in Madeley regarding purchasing a hanging basket for their property as part of the Madeley Town Council order. It was noted that Madeley Town Council are no longer able to subsidise hanging baskets and residents and businesses will have to pay the full price of £110 for the basket and watering.

E24/056 **Grit Bin Register.**

The Committee received requests for an additional grit bin to be installed between The Rookery and Tynsley Terrace. It is Madeley Town Council policy to request Telford & Wrekin Council to install grit bins as part of their Borough wide programme. This item to be carried forward to the next Environment Committee

E24/057 **Correspondence**

057.1 The Committee received a copy of the updated Telford & Wrekin Council Planning Application: Call In Request.
Noted.

057.2 The Committee were reminded of the Telford Green Spaced Partnership short survey to be completed by 28 March 2024.

057.3 The Committee requested that all Councillors should consider organising a litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean from 15-31 March 2024.

E24/058 **Information**

Nothing to report.

E24/059 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Town Council is scheduled for Monday 11 March 2024 at 6.30 pm at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed