

Minutes of Environment Committee

Date and Venue: 5th October 2015 @ Eye Town Hall 7pm.

Persons present: Councillors Cooper, Byles, Smith, Robbins, Ribchester, Hudson, The Town Clerk.

Members of the public present Mr Ken Burrows and Mr Colin Hale

1. **No apologies for absence.**
2. **Wellington Road** residents Mr Colin Hale and Mr Ken Burrows raised issues of safety of pedestrians and volume of traffic. They enquired about the present and future plans for signs in Wellington Road particularly those prohibiting entry on either side of Linden Court and Dove Lane. The matter was discussed at length and the future 20mph limit through the conservation area of Eye which includes Wellington Rd was mentioned. Cllr Cooper explained that the Committee were originally in favour of removing the Access signs by Linden Court and Dove Lane but in view of the public interest will hold a public meeting to consult the public on three options regarding signage

Option 1

- Leave the current restriction signs

Option 2

- Remove the current restriction signs
- **Options 3**
- Remove the current restriction signs
- Replace with signs at either end of Wellington Rd stating access only

Once the Committee has collated responses the matter would be finally resolved by Environment Committee at their meeting in December.

3. **Street lights (intelligent lighting) contract for work** with SCC. Cllrs Byles and Cooper reported that all the contract works had been completed. The invoice from SCC is £37,746.33 plus VAT (£7549.26). This was the original price quoted by SCC over 18 months ago. After deducting the grant finance £5000 and £2665, the provision of £10,000 to pay for this work already allocated and the public works loan board loan of £20,000 already agreed by the Town Council and ignoring VAT which is immediately recoverable there is a sum of £81.33 due to SCC. **Resolved unanimously** to pay sum of £81.33 to SCC from the street lights budget – there is money in the budget.
4. **Street lights -Talensas which are not switching off** between midnight and 5am. **Light 103** outside 48 Ash Drive which has only recently been added to SCC list of streetlights. **Light 303** Wellington Rd which has only recently had a talensa fitted. **Light 150** above the old post office – the Committee decided to

- leave this light on as it casts a light over the shop fronts in the Town Square. **Light 52** in Lowgate Street – the talensa needs to be switched off between midnight and 5am by SCC. **Light 139** outside No 2 Tacon Close is switched off but the Committee decided it should be kept on all night because Tacon Close has a narrow entrance, is the home of lots of elderly residents and it will help ambulances coming there at night. Cllr Byles to contact SCC about these talensas.
5. **Street lights which need repairing.** Agreed the job of repairing streetlights is ongoing and if repairs are carried out on an annual basis the Town Council will not be faced with bills of over £37,000 as has happened this year. SCC suggest the following repairs are needed. Light **123** in Magdalen St – the bracket was unsafe and has been removed and a new bracket and LED light will cost £581.29. **Lights 144 and 145** Castle Hill need replacement lights £249.35 each making a total of £498.70. Work is also needed on the light in **Cranley Rd by the junction with Occold and Redlingfield.** SCC to be asked to quote. SCC also suggest repairs to light 55 in Cranley Rd which is situated just after the Kings Bridge but that light appears to be working when checked by Cllr Byles. **Resolved unanimously** to have work carried out on Lights 123, 144 and 145 for a cost of £1079.99 – money to come from Street lights budget.
 6. **The Chapel in the cemetery** which needs repair. Cllr Byles to contact Paul Durrant to make sure he wishes to do this work.
 7. **The Barrier to stop cyclists** on footpath leading from Century Rd to Ash Drive. It was agreed that the portfolio holder for highways be invited to the town so Cllrs could explain the need for the 20 limit and temporary speed signs and to hear and the need for a barrier.
 8. **The Green Cemetery.** The Town Clerk informed the Committee that this year to date we have had four burials (mostly of ashes) in the Green Cemetery. She would like more burials and interments of ashes. Agreed that the way forward was to draft a brochure about the Green Cemetery to publicise it with Funeral Directors and if this approach does not lead to more business to consider landscaping the site to make it look more attractive. **Cllrs Byles and Robbins to prepare a brochure.**
 9. **Mrs Tilbury's request** for a bench in the Green Cemetery. **Cllr Cooper** will meet with Mrs Tilbury to decide upon a location for the bench.
 10. **Bench outside the Town Hall** – the email from the resident objecting to this was considered and it was resolved unanimously to allow the bench to be erected outside the Town Hall with the condition to be added to the Agreement allowing the bench that if complaints of anti social behaviour connected to the bench are received from several residents the bench should be removed elsewhere. The resident who wishes to place the bench outside the Town Hall is happy to accept this condition.
 11. **The idea of a market on Wednesdays-** deferred to the next meeting as noone from the Business Forum is available to discuss with the Committee at present
 12. **Grit bins. Resolved unanimously** that two new grit bins should be purchased for a sum not exceeding £220 one to be placed in Ash Drive near the post office and the other in Church St at the junction of Castle Street. The one in Church St

- is to be coloured black or dark green because this is a conservation area.
13. **Dog bin in Victoria Hill** . A resident has pointed out that a dog bin is on the ground in Victoria Hill. Cllr Cooper confirmed that the dog bin has been on the ground for many years having fallen off its post and that neither the street cleaner nor the public (until now) have any objections. The dog bin is cleaned out regularly. Committee decided to leave matters as they are. Town Clerk to respond to the resident along these lines.
 14. **The email from the Community Centre** about rubbish being placed in their bins was considered. The Town Clerk was requested to write to them explaining it was not Town Council waste which was being placed in their bins.
 15. **The street Cleaning contract.** The Town Clerk stated the contract is very vague about what is to be done under the contract. Agreed that Sarah Carter of MSDC should be invited to Eye to see what is happening on the ground and to discuss with Town Clerk and members of the Committee
 16. **Allotments** – there is an ongoing problem of dog mess at the front of the allotments by the footpath. Agreed to look into the cost of a fence and doorway openings to deter dogwalkers and their dogs from coming onto allotments. Town Clerk to obtain quote from Paul Durrant and / or other contractors.
 17. **The Public Toilet.** The door is too heavy for the frame. Paul Durrant to be asked to quote for a new door.
 18. **Disabled Parking Bays.** In view of the new requirements which mean that in effect two parking bays have to be given up to create a new disabled parking bay SCC and the police are to be informed that the Environment Committee is satisfied with the number of parking bays in Eye and their current locations.
 19. **20 mph speed limit in Eye** – this is moving so slowly it was decided to invite the Cabinet member for highways to visit Eye and to look at 20mph and other traffic problems. Town Clerk to arrange and inform Cllr McGregor.
 20. **Orchard Close** parking problems. This was discussed at length. At times there are clearly problems of motorists parking at the junction of Orchard Close and Lowgate St and any motorist entering or leaving Orchard Close should proceed with extreme caution and at other times there are no problems. The Town Council is not a highways authority nor does it have any power to enforce parking restrictions. The very serious problem of the lack of policing in Eye was discussed. It was decided for the time being this was not a matter that the Committee wished to take up .
 21. **The Budget** – this was considered and the budget for next year drafted.
 22. Finally Cllrs Cooper and Ribchester were reminded that they had agreed to **audit cemetery records** later this month.

The Meeting finished at 9pm.