



**Minutes of the Property & Environment Working Group of Costessey Town Council,  
held on Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 7pm at the Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane  
NR8 5AH**

**Present:** Cllrs J Amis (Chairman), G Blundell, L Glover, P O'Connor; N Bailey (Deputy Clerk) & L Trabucco (Clerk Assistant)

**Observers:** Cllr T Laidlaw in-person; Cllr M Bedford, D Bowles (Buildings Manager) were connected via Zoom as members of the public

**To receive apologies for absence**

**PE15/22:** Apologies were received from Cllr M Bedford (unwell with Covid) and Cllr Burrill. No apologies were received from Cllr J Sealey

**To receive declarations of interest**

**PE16/22:** None

**To sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2022**

**PE17/22:** It was noted that the minutes had already been received by Full Council on 8 February 2022  
**RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record with no amendment**

**To receive an update on the previous meetings**

**PE18/22:** Min: PE07/21: Cllrs G Blundell & P O'Connor had visited Easton Collage with the Deputy Clerk on 16 March 2022 to look at their designs for the Denes on Queen's Hills. Min PE010/22: The checklist of items to consider had been received for the Tud Riverbank erosion & treatment. Min: PE08/22: The curtains at QH had been fitted. Min: PE11/22: The Play equipment had been installed.

**To consider a proposal for Wild Flowering at Longwater Grounds**

**PE19/22:** Cllr G Blundell gave a brief explanation of the proposal for wild flowering at the Longwater grounds highlighting two areas which could be rewilded without any impact on football or general use. A 1-2 metre strip around the ball catch nets would be effective, and a second would require a shaded variety of wildflower seed to be sown on the area at the far end of the field on the grass bank along the golf course fence line. A map with information of wild flowering and options of seeding were shared ahead of the meeting. Discussions between the Town Clerk and the Head Groundsman had taken place and the surface of grass could be scraped off so that wildflower seeds could be more successful. The type of ground where wildflowers would thrive should be considered, eg poor soil. The cost of seeds would be approx. £104.00 + VAT and would cover a large area, but this cost would not include the hire of any materials to remove the top layer of grass for rewilding. the importance of pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths was highlighted as many are on the decline. The idea should be taken forward to see if it worked and then verges and Breckland Park could be considered next.

**A Proposal was made to take it forward and discuss the various options with the Head Groundsman. ACTION: Deputy Clerk/Heads Groundman**

**To receive correspondence from South Norfolk Council re: Orchard at Maze Avenue/Fairway**

**PE20/22:** Proposed SNC works were costed at £25,000 and the Consortium of Developers were contributing £12,000. CTC will be adopting the area and SNC were wondering if they could meet the shortfall, otherwise SNC could only afford to return the area to grass. Residents' comments were read out. The 'sandy soil' would make it difficult to grow anything, especially without water. Further discussions on the proposed plan and ideas and a suggestion that topsoil could be added to replace the sandy land to encourage longevity of plants and flowers. A suggestion was made to engage residents to see if they would support this idea.

**PE021/22:** Cllr T Laidlaw suggested that District Councillor S Blundell could formally make an application to SNC to fund the project.

**PE022/22:** Three other planned projects (The River Tud Bank Erosion, The Woods at the Cemetery and Breckland Park Rocking Horse) meant CTC should be cautious about current spending.

#### **To receive feedback from Easton College Students on ideas for The Denes**

**PE023/22:** A brief update of the recent visit to Easton College by Cllrs G Blundell & P O'Connor was given. Designs by students were displayed as models and pictures. A recommendation was made that CTC should push this idea forward as it should improve the area and make it attractive. Another suggestion was made to show the current ideas for the Denes to the QH residents, informing them of what the students at Easton Collage had come up with, and that they could be involved to do the same for the Orchard area. Next steps were to cost the initiative in phases with help from Easton College. **ACTION: Deputy Clerk**

#### **To consider an additional plaque on the Costessey Centre Entrance Pillars**

**PE024/22:** Cllr T East had first proposed an additional plaque to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. A plaque for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee could sit under the existing ones. A suggestion was made to keep the current plaques the same and add two new plaques, one for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and one for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Prices to be sought for a future P&E meeting. **ACTION: Deputy Clerk**

#### **To receive information on the trial part-time road closure West End (displacement of parking)**

**PE025/22:** An email received on 23 February 2022 from Sustrans and map were provided ahead of the meeting; an explanation was given about the *School Street* trial as to whether the Council would be a statutory consultee. The impact on CTC hirers at the school run time was outlined as parking inconsiderately is a recurrent issue and will only worsen once the trial part-time road closure of West End starts in May. The impact on office staff was explained and examples given where they had to go into the car park to talk to parents as their inconsiderate parking was causing dangerous situations by double parking by the front gates, especially for kids walking through the gates with cars coming in and out, and this would only get worse. It was suggested that the gate could be locked for a few days prior to the school runs, and prior to CTC hirers arriving at the Centre. People also use the CTC car park to leave their cars all day to go out for the day in Norwich. Signs similar to multistorey or shopping car parks could be made up, where certain car parking restrictions were enforced. Another idea was to investigate how to enforce parking tickets for all inconsiderate parking. Sustrans had asked CTC to clarify if it would be happy for parents to continue using the CTC car park and therefore for them to promote on the school streets website; CTC had replied stating that they would be happy to continue, but to explain that parking was limited, and the reasons why street closure was not appropriate.

**PE026/22:** Cllr T Laidlaw asked to speak at 8:46pm as the issue of parking at the CTC had been covered. He stated that the item on the agenda was to discuss the trial part-time road closure of West End and the knock-on impact on displacement of parking, quoting an email from Elanor Nicholls of Sustrans to Cllrs L Glover and T Laidlaw, where a copy of a letter from the Head teacher of St-Augustine's and CCllr S Blundell were aware of the scheme and were in favour; therefore he had forwarded it to the Town Clerk as she was not copied into the email. This subject did not come up for discussion at the last Full Council meeting of the 8 March 2022. Cllr T Laidlaw mentioned the good letter written by the Town Clerk in response to that letter highlighting the problems. Unfortunately the time of the trial period (which is usual 18 months) of this part-closure of West End commencing on 9 May 2022, 30-45 mins twice a day subject to the normal opening times of the school, will affect residents of West End. If you have a school with parallel roads with a high density of housing then it is appropriate to close the road to reduce pollution, because traffic movement is still possible, but on West End the trouble lies with traffic movement and therefore it should not be considered for a part-

time road closure. A proposal to have this subject come forward for discussion at the next Full Council meeting was made.

**PE027/22:** Cllr L Glover and P O'Connor left the meeting at 09:04pm

**PE028/22:** As the meeting was no longer quorate the remaining agenda items were deferred to the next Property & Environment meeting on Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 7:30pm

**PE29/22:** The meeting finished at 9:04pm

**Chairman:**

**Date:**