

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE, WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor A Roberts Chairman, Councillors, V Gay, A B Gregory, E Gregory, D Jones, R Lloyd, M Robinson, J Shallcross, K Shallcross and T Brown, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor A Lloyd.

2. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That

Councillor Aled Roberts be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. *These Minutes and the recommendations contained therein were approved by the Council at its meeting held on 9 February 2022.*

5. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received a report from the Clerk that detailed the membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Membership of the Environmental and Regeneration Committee - 8 members including 2 ex-officio

Councillors, Veronica Gay, Arthur Gregory, Eileen Gregory, A Lloyd, R Lloyd Jason Shallcross be appointed to the Environmental and Regeneration Committee along with the 2 ex-officio members Councillors Aled Roberts and Kim Shallcross be appointed to the Committee. As approved by Council at its AGM on 18 May 2022.

Terms of Reference

- to report to the Council on all matters relating to regeneration of the Town including observations on planning applications and where necessary, because of urgency, to have delegated power to act on such applications; to liaise with the relevant bodies and consider any planning matters as they affect Saltney.
- to be responsible to the Council for the preparation of the Business Plan
- to report to the Council on all matters affecting the Environment of Saltney including anti-social behaviour and Emergency Planning and flood prevention.

RESOLVED: That

(1) The membership of the Committee as detailed above be approved.

(2) The Terms of Reference as detailed above be approved.

6. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members were asked to consider the possible motifs for the Christmas lights for the next 5 year' contract with Blachere Illuminations UK.

RESOLVED: That

3 Motifs were approved, and the Clerk was asked to confirm these with Blachere Illuminations UK.

7. MULTI LOCATION MEETINGS – LGE ACT 21 – UPDATE

At the Council meeting held on 8 September 2021, it was agreed that a small working group of four members be established to work collaboratively with this Committee on producing a policy for multi-location meetings in line with the LGE Act 21.

It was report by the chair of the working group that the process so far had been a disaster from start to finish. She reported that the process needed to be completed in the correct way.

She felt that Welsh Government had not engaged properly. It was requested that different members be put forward, as the working group so far had not been successful in moving forward.

So far, no actions had been conducted, a rethink was needed on the skill set of members. Time and commitment were needed to go through the legislation to enable the group to present a policy to Council for approval.

The following members were appointed to the working group

Councillors V Gay (Chair), A Roberts A Gregory, D Jones, M Robinson

It was agreed that the Chair of the working group would arrange the next meeting of the working group and report back.

RESOLVED: That

Councillors V Gay (Chair), A Roberts, A Gregory, D Jones, and M Robinson be appointed to the working group.

8. LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE

Members noted that the Local places for nature was a capital funding programme set up by Welsh Government to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. Under the 'Environment act 2016' all local authorities had a section 6 duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

As Town and Community Councils were well placed to develop the environmental wellbeing of the areas they serve, and One Voice Wales was uniquely placed to help to deliver the local places for nature programme.

Welsh Government had declared a climate emergency and enacted a nature recovery plan. Our councils were being asked to take part in creating 'Nature on the doorstep' for our communities and leaving a legacy for future generations.

The capital funding programme was an opportunity to implement projects to increase biodiversity and change your communities for the future. Funding was available from £10,000 up to £250,000 for larger projects, but projects could be any size. They ranged from changes in mowing practices, and community growing gardens to establishing orchards, meadows, nature reserves and lots more. There were also free garden packages available.

Members agreed to categorise the green area spaces around the Township initially prior to making any bids on funding.

RESOLVED: That

Green spaces be categorised prior to applying for any funding from Welsh Government.

9. SALTNEY TOWN ACTION PLAN

It was agreed at a previous meeting that this would be a standard item on each agenda going forward to enable Members to feed back their thoughts about the process of producing an action plan for Saltney, giving further consideration moving forward towards a possible public consultation.

Members were asked to let the Clerk have any ideas or questions prior to the meeting.

Members agreed that there was nothing to stop members working together on ideas outside of the Committee and report them to the Clerk in advance of the agenda being dispatched.

There were no comments received.

RESOLVED: That

Members of the Environmental and Regeneration Committee continue to work on the Saltney Town Action Plan and report to a future meeting of the Council.

Chairman

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