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DRAFT MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4th January 2021, 7.30pm
Held remotely on Zoom

Present: Mr. Hoare, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. Thawley and Mr. Young (Chair)

Ex-Officio: Mr. Truesdale

Bucks Cllr: Mr. Foster

Clerk: Ms. Gilbert

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Marsden

Acting Deputy Clerk: Ms. Allman

Assistant Clerk: Ms. Griffiths

Members of public: 5 including Mr Proctor (Zero Carbon Haddenham) and Mrs Shaw (reLeaf)

E21 45 CO-OPTION TO THE COMMITTEE

It was AGREED to co-op Cllr Hoare and Cllr Thawley on to the Environment Committee. After co-option to the committee, Cllrs Hoare and Thawley joined the meeting.

E21 46 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr O'Loughlin and Ms Poole. Longstanding apologies remain from Mr Wheeler.

E21 47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was proposed and agreed that contributions from Mrs Shaw and Mr Proctor would be best made during discussion of the agenda items put forward by them.

1. A resident also spoke about tree planting around the village and explained that in the past trees had been planted around Sheerstock that hadn't been taken care of and ultimately had to be removed. They suggested involving local residents and children with any future initiatives. *This was considered under E21 51ii.*

E21 48 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

E21 49 REPORT ON MAINTENANCE OF ASSETS AND AMENITIES

- (i) A report on the maintenance of the village assets and amenities was received.
- (ii) It was noted that restorative work to the witchert wall at the entrance to the orchard has been completed. Work to parget the orchard logo onto the newly rendered surface will take place in Spring.

E21 50 PLAY AREAS

- (i) It was AGREED to cover the cost of the quote from Aspire for minor repairs to play areas.
- (ii) It was AGREED to set up a working group to plan improvements to Woodways play area. Cllr Poole, Mrs Marsden and Ms Griffiths will form the working group.

E21 51 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROJECT

- (i) Mr O'Hanlon explained that further presentations to village groups had been arranged with assistance from members of Zero-Carbon Haddenham. Assistance has also been provided with the continuing work on the food waste project and investigating the feasibility of setting-up an electric car club.

- (ii) The Chair invited Mrs Shaw, who had put forward the proposal on behalf of reLeaf, to participate in the discussion of this agenda item. A Sheerstock resident was also allowed to participate.

Mrs Shaw offered to present detailed plans of proposed tree planting on Parish Council owned land around Sheerstock, however it was felt this would not be practical in the online meeting. The Sheerstock resident asked the Committee to note that several previous attempts to plant trees on the grassed area near to his property had failed, but said he was keen to be involved with this project.

It was considered important to engage local residents to ensure the success of the project and involve them in looking after the young trees.

It was AGREED to set up a working group to work with reLeaf and consider proposals for tree planting around the village. When lockdown restrictions allow, site visits can be made but until then discussions will have to be held via remote meetings.

Mr Truesdale, Mr O'Hanlon and Mr Foster volunteered to join the working group.

- (iii) Mr. Proctor was invited to participate at this point. He explained that Thame Solar Streets is a community solar project that gives individual home owners and businesses in the local area the chance to install and own solar PV roof panels at around 20% discount, by taking advantage of bulk purchasing and coordinated installations through IDDEA. For every installation a donation is made to a community fund for local green projects. The project was put forward by Thame Green Living and supported by Thame Town Council.

<https://www.thamegreenliving.org.uk/projects/solar-streets/>

IDDEA have been approached and are happy to extend to project to include Haddenham. Zero Carbon Haddenham have arranged an online presentation by IDDEA on 21st January which councillors are invited to attend. Mr. Proctor asked if Haddenham Parish Council would like to support the project and be included in the publicity for it. Whilst it was agreed that the project would support the climate emergency objectives of the Council, concerns were raised about the council supporting a commercial operation without having done any due diligence, although it was noted that several other councils had done so.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would carry out due diligence before the Council is able to support and promote the Solar Streets Project: <https://www.iddea.co.uk/what-is-solar-streets/>.

E21 52 ACTIVE TRAVEL

- (i) Mr Truesdale provided a report from the second meeting held with Buckinghamshire Council to review the temporary cycle path along Thame Road – Fort End on 14th December 2020. The Parish Council suggested trying to link the scheme in with the Thame-Aylesbury cycle proposal

and to reinvestigate the Fort End Proposal originally made around 10 years ago in the Highway Conservation Area Protocol.

- (ii) It was AGREED to fund additional footpath signage and to cover the cost of repair to broken fencing where the permissive footpath HAD/P22/1 meets footpath HAD/1/2. Cost of repairs are £100. The signage is yet to be costed as some may be available from Bucks Council.
- (iii) It was AGREED to approach the land owner and investigate the possibility of creating a new permissive footpath alongside the railway from Station Road to Thame Road.

E21 53 PARKING RESTRICTIONS

It was noted that the Parish Council was required to make a revised application to the Community Board for funding towards phase 2 of the parking restrictions project in the 2021/22 financial year. The application was submitted during the Christmas break, prior to the closing date.

E21 54 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

Mr Proctor was invited to update as the only representative of the committee present. Fortunately, a working party was carried out in December, prior to the introduction of Tier 4 restrictions, which means the maintenance is in good order.

E21 55 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The clerk gave an update in the absence of Mr. Wheeler. Rent has now been collected from almost all plot holders. The gate to the allotments is currently closed and some repairs are being carried out to the path. The Parish Council has approved additional funding to extend the function of the bore hole and the work is planned over the next couple of months.

E21 56 SNAKEMOOR

Mr. Milmer was invited to read out a message from Julian Watson, Volunteer Manager, circulated at new year:

Perhaps New Year's Eve is a fitting time to reflect on the passing year and look forward to the next. Setting aside the overly well documented woes of 2020, it is worth celebrating just what a wonderful asset Snakemoor has been for us all. It has been abundantly clear that the Reserve has seen much greater numbers visiting - driven by both the need for fresh air and the soothing benefits of natural spaces. Our village has grown considerably in 2020, and Snakemoor has had many new explorers - all to be warmly welcomed.

Whilst the many levels of restrictions placed upon us have made volunteer work more difficult, this has not resulted in a poorer amenity for the village. The diligent and hard work of the volunteers has kept Snakemoor looking fine through all the seasons - a fitting tribute to all involved. We have also been very well supported by Aspire Community Works.

I would especially like to acknowledge the time and patience that Robyn has given me to help build on his achievements over the prior 28 years, and coaching me in the role of Warden.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we will be able to resume more social working activities as the vaccination programme expands and Government controls are gradually relaxed. In the meantime, I would encourage the existing socially distanced activities to continue as now.

Specific work areas we have identified for 2021 are:

- Improving the state of the paths with wood chippings
- Cleaning up the pond and encouraging its biodiversity
- Expanding communication about Snakemoor to new residents

I very much look forward to doing these, and many more activities with you in the months ahead.

E21 57 CLERK'S REPORT

Nothing to note.

E21 58 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

It has been reported to the council that the verge along Stockwell has been churned up by vehicles and is very muddy. Mr Foster will check with Buckinghamshire Council that the small refuse lorry is being used.

A member of public suggested that the council make available for use litter pickers to members of the public.

E21 59 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th March 2021.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Signed: _____ Draft _____
Chair

Date: 8th March 2021