

Blockley Parish Council

**Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 12th October 2023, 6:30pm, Little Village Hall, Blockley**

**Minutes**

**Meeting opened**:18.32.

**Presen**t: Clerk N Holt, Chair Cllr Neal, Cllr Turner, Cllr Mackinnon-Little, Cllr Leach

**Apologies**: Cllr Fowlie, Cllr Baines

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** Cllr Fowlie, Cllr Baines
2. **Aspirations for the ESC group (Cllr Turner)** Background: This was a working group then changed to a committee. Paused over the last year due. Had good community engagement previously. Activities were underpinned by BPC climate & ecological action plan: [87d1eb\_500469deabe24ffd9248c478610e8068.pdf (blockley.org.uk)](https://www.blockley.org.uk/_files/ugd/87d1eb_500469deabe24ffd9248c478610e8068.pdf). Committee Terms of Reference shared in Teams. Keen to maintain clarity of purpose. Aim to keep meetings to 1 hr max. Create task & finish groups to follow through actions. Option to meet online. Run learning sessions outside of meeting for community. Aim for monthly meetings. Prioritise an action plan. Re-engage wider community.
3. **Approve Minutes of March 2022.** CT only Cllr present at this last meeting. CT voted to approve; all other Cllrs abstained as they are new councillors.

Matters arising: Action: to develop QR code on walks around the parish, in liaison with Parish Warden. Ideally to feed back into website/ a central database – Committee agreed to park for now.

1. **Biodiversity Net Gain and what it means. Identify locations for next round of Cotswolds Natural Landscapes tree planting grant. Ash Die-back and Oak decline – GCC Highways, BPC, and landowners**.

Biodiversity Net Gain needs to be built into planning. CT has shared with Cllrs some links to useful resources. The tools to implement this are already in existence just no legislation. Committee explored the idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan which could include Planning and Net gain requirements. This could possibly have a contribution to costs from CIL funds. Highways stock is 4 yr. old saplings.

2 locations identified that may be suitable for siting new trees; possibly Bromford land on Station Rd. where there is a dead cherry tree; around Northwick Park, who have undertaken a tree survey **ACTION:** CLERK to contact Bromford re Stn. Rd. SN to follow up with Northwick Park.

1. **Propose dates for community litter picks in Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 (Cllr Turner**) Proposed date 4th/5th November (coinciding with all bin collection on 6th) **ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with Draycott/Aston Magna/Paxford and ask if they want to get a team together. Clerk to check refuse bag stock &supplies and liaise with GWA to leave filled bags there for collection. Keep Britain Tidy campaign runs from 15th to 30th March so proposed Spring campaign 23/24th March in Blockley (to coincide with waste collection dates) **ACTION:** Clerk to check collection dates for other villages.
2. **Propose establishing a working party of community volunteers to weed cemetery path (Cllr Turner**)

CML suggested clerk to ask T FOX about spraying horticultural vinegar on weeds in cemetery as an ongoing maintenance option. **ACTION:** Clerk. CT will put together a plan to establish working party for cemetery **ACTION:** CT to create plan & Clerk to circulate.

1. **To review EV charging point tender options & agree next steps. Public Transport and Active Travel (Cllr Neill)**

Potential stakeholders identified: Glos Highways, Cotswold National Landscapes, AONB, National Grid.

The tender in from Liberty Charge is out of date. Now greater capacity for faster charging. Feasibility study was done on SGH car park previously. SN has approached 3 company Believe, Shell Ubicity/AONB, Connected Kerb (GCC partner on charging). BPC to look at risk averse options. Eg. a concession contract 15 yr. approx. or a no investment contract. Requirement would be a pre-install survey funded by supplier. Charging fees are variable. **ACTION**: SN to follow up and engage with companies and start dialogue.

1. **Feedback from 5G seminar and agree next steps (Cllr Mackinnon-Little)** CML provided detailed feedback from 5G seminar attended. This was useful to create an awareness for BPC re health aspects and any future planning relating to this. BPC appears to have little or no way of knowing of updating of mast capacity from 4G to 5G. There has been little research on health impact of 5G. There is a possibility for this to be built into a Neighbourhood plan **ACTION:** CML will liaise with Hook Norton PC to get a deeper understanding of their experience challenging 5G installations & continue to investigate. BPC can set up planning alerts as new masts need approval, however conversion from 4G to 5G on existing masts does not.
2. **To discuss a gas heating system energy efficiency information initiative and agree next steps (Cllr Mackinnon-Little)** CML outlined issues with heat pump options and presented the case to make the current gas systems more effective. **ACTION:** CML to create a flow diagram as decision making tool for parishioners. To be shared on noticeboards/website, possibly presentation to parishioners. Will be mindful of residents not on gas and think about other options for them.
3. **Suggestions for future considerations of the working group** (Cllrs and members of the public). Correction not working group, Committee. Cllr Turner had been contacted by a resident about recycling of non-kerbside collected recyclables. Friends of Blockley School have investigated this in the past. Previous issue was of location. **ACTION:** CT will investigate further

Cllr Leach mentioned community bee hives, something to consider further. Veg/produce swap (previous resident set this up at war memorial during lockdown). Think more about how this could be re-introduced. Benefits: Reduce food waste, social element & Cost of Living. **ACTION:** All

Cllr Neill mentioned blocked drain at junction of St George’s Terrace and Park Rd. Parish sweep was discussed but not felt to be appropriate for ESC action at this time.

1. Next meeting: November 8th LVH 18.30

Meeting closed 20.30