MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL, HIGHAM FERRERS.

PRESENT:
Cllr P Tomas (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Mantle
Cllr R Gell
Cllr Mrs P Whiting
Cllr D Hamblin
Cllr Mrs O Mayes
Cllr A M T Reading
Cllr C P O'Rourke
Mr A Stanton (Higham Ferrers Angling Association)
Mr B Spencer (Higham Ferrers Angling Association)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
Mrs D Edwards (Admin/Finance Assistant)

1. APOLOGIES
None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

3. MINUTES RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. COMMON LAND AT MALLARDS CLOSE
A report had been circulated updating the committee on works on the land. The clearance of the land and fencing was due to take place. Cllr R Gell reported that the works would commence Wednesday 20th January 2016.

RESOLVED:
That the report be received and noted.

5. RIVERSIDE PARK
The Town Clerk reported that all repairs have been completed to the bridge and she expects the new lease to be sealed within the next few weeks.

Cllr R Gell would like to investigate the unlicensed access gates and the dumping of tree pruning etc. by local residents onto Riverside Park with the Park Warden. He would also like to know if it is possible for the Community Payback scheme to carry out some work at the park. He would also like to note the lack of litter, as this is regularly picked up by anglers and other users of the park. Over Christmas a car left the A45 and finished in the lake. No pollution was noted before or after the recovery of the car on New Years Eve.

6. LITTER AND DOG BIN PROVISION IN HIGHAM FERRERS
It was reported that the members of the Litter Working Party were Cllr H L Jackson,
A meeting is currently being scheduled to discuss the locations and condition of the existing bins, assessing a need for more, reviewing litter bin emptying for those owned by the Town Council and also looking at strategies to reducing littering.

7. **PHASE 5 KINGS MEADOW LANE**
Transfer of this land from David Wilson Homes is significantly behind schedule because there are still outstanding works to be completed by the Developer. These were also delayed due to the works being carried by Anglian Water to the pumping station which affected this area.

David Wilson Homes were chased on the outstanding issues on 15th December and the following response was received:-

A colleague has met with Anglian Water earlier today and they are close to completing the replacement of the rising main that runs across the open space area. When these works are complete they will need to re-seed the area that has been excavated however they informed us that they wouldn’t be able to do this until the start of the planting season in March. We have also appointed a structural engineer to review the issues with the footpath slipping towards the slope and they are currently identifying a solution that will hopefully resolve this issue.

Until the issues above are fully resolved I presume that the Town Council would be reluctant to take the open space area so I would propose that we keep you up to speed with our progress and we perhaps meet at some point in the New Year to review this again?

On the basis of this response The Town Clerk will look to arrange a meeting in about a months’ time.

Cllr A M T Reading asked about S106 money, the Town Clerk will look into this and advise.

**RESOLVED:**
That the report be received and noted.

8. **REPORTS**

8.1 **Higham Ferrers Riverside Anglers Association**
Barry Spencer reported that the work carried out in June has enabled them to gain 35 members back and the feedback from the members is positive. Newsletters will be sent out to try and recruit new members and they have new ideas in the pipeline to encourage more members.

8.2 **Parish Path Warden**
No report.

8.3 **Parish Tree Warden**
Cllr Gell reported the following:

- He was consulted regarding the damage to The Walnut Tree and was present while the fire-crew were still on site.
• He had checked work to various trees to the rear of houses in the High Street and Kimbolton Road.
• He had looked at requests to carry out work to trees behind houses in William Steele Way and advised the Town Clerk and the residents. He had since re-visited the site and work as was requested has been carried out to a satisfactory standard.
• He had inspected trees in Bollingbrooke Close following an application to reduce crowns of various trees.
• Some trees at Riverside Park have suffered some wind damage without affecting the safety of users.
• He had looked at a tree in the cemetery affecting the path at the Hawthorns.

9. **ITEMS TO REPORT.**
None.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**
17th May 2016.

Chairman

Date: