

KENNINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES MINUTES



Agenda published 22 September 2022

**A meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee, was held on
on Tuesday, 27 September 2022 starting at 7.00pm,
at the United Reformed Church**

- 59/22E** To note those present, to receive and consider for approval, apologies for absence and reasons given.
Present: Cllr Chris Morley, Cllr Charles Ellies, Cllr Justin Armitage and Cllr John Seaton
Apologies: Cllr Ellie Crook
Also Present: Cllr Alan Cooper (ex officio) and the Clerk
- 60/22E** To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs), Other Significant Interests (OSIs) or Voluntary Interests (VIs) relating to items on the agenda.
Cllr Morley a voluntary interest re 80/22 re Shedkwik and Ashford Volunteer Centre and 68.22.2.
Cllr Alan Cooper also disclosed voluntary interest re 68.22.2 Kennington Recreation Ground as a member of the Kennington Fayre committee.
- 61/22E** To consider and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2022
Resolved: The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee held on 30 June 2022 were adopted as a true record by unanimous vote.
- 62/22E** Public Open Session for members of the public who may make representations, ask and answer questions and give evidence regarding items on the agenda or to suggest issues for discussion at a future meeting.
No members of the public present.
- 63/22E** **Playgrounds/Play Area Strategy: Committee to**
1) discuss and consider proposals in relation to play areas at Little Burton Farm, and to agree recommendations for approval at the next suitable meeting of Council.
Agreed: There is a need to look for a minimum of 2 items aimed at 3-5 year olds.
Action: Clerk to find out what it would roughly cost would be to add 2 pieces of equipment aimed at 3-5 year olds and then present to next suitable meeting and Cllr Pauley for public consult
- 2) discuss and consider proposals in relation to the play are adjacent to Oak tree House 164-184 Bybrook Road, and to agree recommendations for approval at next suitable meeting of Council**
Agreed: Beecholme Play park is in desperate need of an overview by Ashford Borough Council to make this park more user appealing and cleaner for children to use.
Action: Agreed the Clerk to write to the Playground portfolio holder at ABC, Cllr Matthew Forest, ask for a site visit and for the potential for this playground on Beecholme drive to be looked at for an upgrade or redevelopment. Clerk to report back with response and progress at the next suitable meeting.
- 3) consider next steps for playground in Rectory Way**
Agreed: That this playground in general good condition
Action: Agreed that as this playground in general good condition, that this play area be looked at again at a later date. Clerk to diarise for a future agenda.
- 4) receive an oral update on the Friends of Spearpoint proposal.**
Noted: Oral update from Cllr Morley still trying to put a group together.

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Action: Cllr Morley to continue efforts to speak with someone from Freedom Leisure in order to look to set up a Friends of Spearpoint group with residents, Freedom Leisure and ABC and provide update and next suitable meeting.

Action: Clerk to find out from Aspire/Ashford Borough Council when the next inspections surveys for playgrounds to be carried out for all Kennington Parks and whether the previous inspections can be shared with Kennington Community Council

64/22E

Highway Improvement Plan: Committee to

1) discuss and agree arrangements for traffic survey in The Street, Ulley Road and adjacent roads as advised by Kent Highways

Agreed: this should be taken to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

Action: Clerk to add to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

2) discuss and consider requests for traffic calming and parking restrictions in Lower Vicarage Road/Rothbrook Drive/Hurst Road

Agreed: This issue should be added to current Highway Improvement plan

Action: Cllr Morley to add to the current Highway Improvement Plan for Kennington and send updated version to the Clerk.

3) consider purchase of Speed Spy traffic recording device and make recommendations to Council

Agreed: this should be taken to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

Action: Clerk to add to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

65/22E

Cycling on footpath under M20: Committee to

1) note and discuss concerns raised by residents regarding cycling on the footpath under the M20 and consider any next step/actions

Agreed: that this underpass has been a concern for many and Council should look at how future accidents can be prevented.

Action: Agreed the Clerk to contact Sustrans for suggestions and ideas to resolve as well as learning more about the cycle paths in Kennington. Clerk to report back at the next suitable meeting.

Action: Clerk to continue to consult with Kent County Council and chase for their response as to what can be done to rectify the current issue. Clerk to update at the next suitable committee meeting or Council as appropriate.

Action: Clerk to keep the residents involved in the accidents up to date with all development and discussions at the meeting today.

66/22E

Allotments: Committee to

1) receive an update on transfer of the statutory Allotments to the Community Council
Noted by all. No further actions at this time

2) discuss and agree draft Allotments Policy Incorporating Allotments Tenancy Terms and Conditions and to make a recommendation for adoption at the next suitable meeting of Council.

Agreed: Revised policy be taken to the next suitable Council meeting for adoption

Signed:

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Dated:

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Action: Agreed this should be taken to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee for adoption.

Action: Agreed to recommend with the consensus of the Environment and Open Spaces committee members to request Council to agree a tariff of £12.50 per perch to draw closer to the break even cost which is calculated as at around £25-£26 per perch.

67/22E

Allotments Subcommittee

1) To consider any matters referred by the Allotments Subcommittee

Noted: None received.

Action: Clerk to add to next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee and be a set agenda item for each meeting.

2) To consider any matters for referral to the Allotments Subcommittee

Noted: None received.

Action: Clerk to add to next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee and be a set agenda item for each meeting.

68/22E

Greens and Open Spaces: Committee to

1) to receive an oral update on the Application to Register Land At Kennington As A New Village Green

Noted: The item did not make the Kent County Council agenda for 21st September, so awaiting a new date.

Action: Cllr Morley to update at the next suitable meeting of the committee or Council as appropriate.

2) discuss and consider whether Council should request transfer of Kennington Recreation Ground from Ashford Borough Council, under s9 of Open Spaces Act 1906, and to agree recommendations for approval at next suitable meeting of Council

Agreed: that this would be interesting to pursue however due to current workflow that this be diarised for a later time.

Action: Agreed to add to plan, but as low priority due to current work outstanding.

Action: Clerk to add to a future agenda

3) discuss and consider whether Council should request transfer of the closed Kennington Parish Allotments in Lower Vicarage Road from Ashford Borough Council for reinstatement as allotments or community gardens, and to agree recommendations for approval at next suitable meeting of Council

Agreed: Item need to be deferred until the next/future suitable meeting.

Action: Agreed to add to plan, and bring forward to a suitable Committee/Council meeting in the future

69/22E

Planting schemes: Committee to

1) note progress on daffodil planting scheme and to consider a scheme for 2022/3

Action: Clerk to arrange some community daffodil planting sessions late October/early November.

Action: Clerk to write to the Kennington Juniors school again for their involvement

Action: Clerk to write to the Brownies/Scouts to see if can make this year

Action: Clerk to write to Ashford Woodcraft to see if they would like to be involved

Action: Clerk to write to the Amber Foundation to see if they have volunteers

Action: Clerk to write to Uprising to see if they may have volunteers

Action: Clerk to write to Ashford Volunteers to see if they can help with volunteers

Action: Clerk to write to Towers Secondary School for volunteers / involvement.

2) discuss and agree other future and potential tree and hedge planting opportunities.

Agreed: Items needs to be deferred until the next/future suitable meeting.

Action: Clerk as item deferred to add to next suitable meeting agenda

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3) note response from ABC on potential changes to Grass Cutting scheme

Action: Agreed that this item be deferred until the next/future suitable meeting.

70/22E Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Committee to discuss and consider proposals in relation to a commemorative rose bed.

Agreed: Clerk to look at whether new play parks could be an area for this to be put in.

Action: Clerk to approach ABC to see if it can be done in conjunction now with Rylands Road or the Ridge Play park.

Following this item the agenda moved to 82/22E Coronation – to consider planting specimen trees to commemorate the Coronation of HM Charles III and to make recommendations to Council for approval and then returned to order

71/22E Defibrillator installations: Committee to

1) receive an update on sites completed and ongoing management

Noted: Ongoing maintenance is the Clerk visits monthly to check in working order, quick clean around. All defibrillators have now also had an accessory pack (including gloves, scissors and items needed with this type of emergency) and added and so these will be date expected aso.

2) receive an update on plans for remaining sites.

Noted: Update with new defibrillator on order for New Hayesbank Doctors Surgery and remaining one to be Tilne Kilne Road phone box.

Action: Clerk to liaise with New Hayesbank once delivery date known, to progress forward.

72/22E Summer in the Square programme at Bockhanger Square: Committee to

1) note success of events held under the Summer in the Square programme at Bockhanger Square

Noted: The Clerk relayed that numbers had been lower than would have wished, but presenters and attendees were pleased with the numbers as well as residents that did attend well received the activities.

Noted: Additional items such as general banners, signposts would add and give a more visual prompt for future events.

Noted: Clerk advised she had had numerous engagements of issues of concerns at Beecholme and Rectory Way parks which had been attended to, issues and concerns relating to ABC which have now all been resolved, requests to continue with events in next October school holiday and Christmas. Ideas re adding more attraction to the concrete balls.

Noted: Peter New from Neighbourhood watch had prevented a couple being scammed as they walked over seeing us on the square and then went straight to their bank and prevented their account being used.

Noted: Sk8side activities were all for over 8s and if held next year could something run for younger ones also.

Noted: If events are run next year with the cafe open this may help with drawing additional numbers.

Noted: Times to run events would ideally be afternoons so from 1 or 2 and run into the afternoon/early evening.

Noted: Chips n Chatter, Ashford Borough Council to be promoted to email all their rental properties for further promotion.

Noted: That confirming dates earlier would be advantageous albeit we were waiting on groups to confirm with some only confirming once into the summer and events programme had started, mainly due to them seeking funding to run and availability of staff during summer.

Action: Clerk to provide update to next suitable Council.

2) consider in outline whether to hold a similar programme in 2023

Agreed: To take to the next suitable Council.

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Action: Clerk to provide update to next suitable Council.

- 73/22E Bockhanger Square – October Half Term Event : Committee to**
1) consider a one afternoon event on the square focusing on Sport for all ages working with Uprising and Sk8side
Agreed: To take to the next suitable Council as Clerk waiting on confirmation from Sk8side they can attend with Uprising.
Action: Clerk to provide update to next suitable Council.

Following this item 73/22E the agenda moved to 84/22E Annual Budget for Environment and Open Spaces and then returned to order

- 74/22E Kennington December / Christmas time event – Committee to consider and make recommendation to Council to host an event with all local groups to aid enrolment and promotion with the additional of an inside barber choir to create some festive cheer.**
Agreed: To take to the next suitable Council.
Action: Clerk to provide update to next suitable Council.
Action: Clerk to see available dates 1-8th December of all for hire rooms in December

- 75/22E Bockhanger Square Litter pick / Big Tidy completion event: Committee to**
1) consider a date to complete what we started and were unable to complete in August for both the weeding, litter picking and further coat of the balls
2) Consider suggestions received for adding further to the concrete balls by asking local groups to make and paint a design and discuss how we can achieve this

Noted: Due to the amount of work on the litter pick day, the balls did not get painted twice so a Spring date to return and paint again would be now looked at.

Noted: Additional ideas to once the balls have been painted for them to be decorated by local groups ie WI, Scouts, Woodcraft Folk, Bybrook Nature Reserve etc

Action: Clerk to add as an agenda item to a January/February time Environment and Open Spaces committee meeting to consider the next date/time and promotion for a Spring time return.

- 76/22E Benches - To consider a request from a resident re a commemorative bench**
Agreed: Item needs to be deferred until the next suitable meeting.
Action: Clerk as item deferred to add to next suitable meeting agenda

- 77/22E War Memorial Restoration: Committee to receive an oral update.**
Agreed: Item needs to be deferred until the next suitable meeting.
Action: Clerk as item deferred to add to next suitable meeting agenda

- 78/22E Southern Water Wastewater treatment works: Committee to note progress report by Ashford Borough Council.**
Noted: By all
Action: Clerk to look at whether tours are now available and if so set up a date for Councillors to attend.

Cllr John Seaton left the meeting at 21:30.

- 79/22E Pop Up Café – The Spearpoint Pavilion, The Ridge: Committee to**
1) receive an update re the recent Pop-up café
Noted: Numbers in excess of 50 attendees, well received if not suggested this should have been done years ago. Friday 23rd (2nd Pop up cafe) had to be cancelled but the next Friday 21st October.
2) make recommendation to Council to include Shedkwik for the next two for a donation towards their projects and setting up bank account facility and signatories

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Agreed: Councillor Cooper as Chair of Council and Cllr Chris Morley as Chair of Environment and Open Spaces committee and with the consensus of the committee that if they attend each Pop up. Kennington Community Council will pay a donation for their attendance.

3) discuss way of helping this project for residents come to fruition post Rural Cafés withdrawal

Action: Clerk to advise Shedkwik dates and times to attend and arrange payment after each date attended.

Agreed: As many Councillors to volunteer to attend to promote and gain resident volunteers to take on the project of a cafe to run monthly in Kennington.

Action: Clerk to make sure Councillor volunteers to attend is promoted at the next Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to add meeting diary note to Councillor calendars.

Action: Clerk to obtain a banner from Rural Cafe to go up on gate the week before.

Action: Clerk to again promote through facebook and releaflet as many addresses as can.

80/22E Shedkwik - Committee to discuss ways the Council can help this project with their current shortfall with materials for projects

Agreed: Clerk to ask Cllr Ellie Crook if she can design a poster, speak with Co-op pioneer and continue to work with GSE and Shedkwik re materials

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Crook if she can design a poster we can send to Shedkwik to help.

Action: Clerk to contact Co-op pioneer, and if there is anything we can do to help shout out for items

81/22E Noticeboards: Committee to

1) receive an update on the noticeboards at Bockhanger Square and Conningbrook (s2) site.

Noted: Noticeboard received today and ABC have agreed to help install it, without cost, awaiting date.

2) consider a planter for under the noticeboard in Vicarage

Agreed: Item needs to be deferred until the next suitable meeting.

Action: Clerk as item deferred to add to next suitable meeting agenda

This item was discussed following agenda item 70/22E– then returned to order and proceeded to 71/22E

82/22E Coronation – to consider planting specimen trees to commemorate the Coronation of HM Charles III and to make recommendations to Council for approval

Agreed: An oak tree should be considered being an oak tree in line with the King Charles connection, recommending to Council a spend of no more than £1500 with the recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

Action: Clerk to add to the next suitable Council meeting with recommendation of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee

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- 83/22E Annual Plan for Environment and Open Spaces: Committee to consider the Annual Plan for Environment and Open Spaces and any input from members.**
Agreed: In principle, to be reviewed and next suitable committee meeting.
- 84/22E Annual Budget for Environment and Open Spaces: Committee to consider requirements on the Annual Council budget next year.**
Agreed: In principle to go to Council in November
Action: Clerk to build into budgets for 23/24
- 85/22E Items for inclusion on the next agenda:**
Little Burton Angling Club, Garden of Remembrance strategy, Community Garden and Transfer of Kennington Recreation Ground from Ashford Borough Council, under s9 of Open Spaces Act 1906, Transfer of the closed Kennington Parish Allotments in Lower Vicarage Road from Ashford Borough Council for reinstatement as allotments or community gardens.
- 86/22E Date of next meeting.**
Agreed: The date of the next meeting will be confirmed once the next Allotments Sub committee have met or current in progress projects need further discussion.
Action: Clerk and Cllr Morley to decide and set the next meeting date.
- 87/22E To exclude the public under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and sections 100 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.**
This item was not required and no members of the public were present.
- 88/22E Close of meeting.** The meeting closed at 21:58.