

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Impacts Working Party held at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 17th May 2010 in the Committee Room at the Old Abbey House, Abingdon

Present: Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Lesley Legge (ex-officio, Chair of F & GP Committee)
Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer

In attendance: Mr Timothy Badcock -Cemetery and Works Supervisor
Mr Nigel Warner - Town Clerk

1 **Election of Chair**

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Angela Lawrence be elected Chair of the Environmental Impacts Working Party for the municipal year 2010/11.

2 **Election of Vice Chair**

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Samantha Bowring be elected Vice Chair of the Environmental Impacts Working Party for the municipal year 2010/11.

3 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor of Abingdon, Councillor Duncan Brown and Councillors Samantha Bowring and Margaret Crick.

4 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors Angela Lawrence and Julie Mayhew-Archer declared personal interests in any matters involving the Vale of White Horse District Council as Members of that authority.

5 **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environmental Impacts Working Party held on 8th February 2010 be signed as a correct record.

6 **Matters Arising**

Minute 29: Dogs and dog bins, Abbey Grounds: The Town Clerk reported that he understood from the District Council that following the re classification of dog waste, the normal litter bins can now be used for dog waste and consequently the Council's waste team are loathe to install separate dog bins. Members expressed dissatisfaction with this change as they considered that this was less hygienic and could be unpleasant for people who are sat on benches close to bins. Members agreed to take a look at the park following the meeting.

7 **Environmental Awareness Day**

The Committee discussed the arrangements and plans for the Environmental Awareness Day which was scheduled for the Market Place on Saturday 12th June 2010. The Town Clerk stated that the Market Place Events co-ordinator was on sick leave but reported that a good number of groups had now indicated that they wished to participate.

Groups involved include:

- Wild Waste Show Bus (Northmoor Trust);
- Love Food, Hate Waste;
- Abingdon Town Council;
- Carbon Cutters;
- Green Gym;
- Eco Architecture & Planning;
- Oxford Wood Recycling;
- Pathway Workshop;
- Oxfordshire County Council - cycling to school;
- Freewheeling Group;
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT);
- Robert Longstaff - The Garden Project;
- Added Ingredients

In addition there were three organisations in the “to be confirmed” category:

- Vale of White Horse District Council;
- Local Roots;
- Freecycle.

It was noted that the District Council officers were due at a prior engagement at Wantage that day and so it was suggested that if they were unable to attend then perhaps they could send some materials.

Mr Badcock stated that he could supply wheelbarrows with, respectively, wood chippings from recycled Christmas trees and compost, for display purposes.

Members agreed to meet in the Committee Room at 3 pm on Thursday 10th June for the purpose of preparing for Environmental Awareness Day.

8 Report on progress and activities in relation to the Nottingham declaration, the Council’s Environmental Charter and associated issues

The Chair stated that she would liaise with the Town Clerk to produce a short report on the Council’s progress in meeting its various objectives under the Environmental Charter.

It was suggested that the Council should, wherever practical, ensure that meeting agendas, minutes and reports are printed double-sided, that office printing be double-sided and that cardboard, which is currently recycled, be used for composting according to demand.

Members discussed the continuing issue of energy being lost from shop doors being left open and also patio heaters being used. Members acknowledged the reasons for concern but considered that ultimately retailers had to take commercial decisions and would be well aware of the costs of leaving doors open and using patio heaters. The Council did not receive any business rates and so did not have powers to give grants for example, towards automatic doors. Mr Badcock suggested that the Council could consider ways to encourage retailers to shut doors, for example though having stickers or posters telling people “the door is shut but we are open.”

It was **resolved** that this matter be brought to the attention of the Choose Abingdon Partnership, the Abingdon on Thames Chamber of Commerce and the Abingdon Business Alliance.

The matter of “Car Free Day” was discussed. The Town Clerk stated that this was a European Union initiative and to operate as intended it required the highway authority to take the lead; the County Council had previously declined. Members suggested that “Free cycle” may wish to become involved in this and should be made aware of the initiative.

9 **Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved: that meetings of the Working Party be convened as follows:

- Thursday 10th June at 3 pm for the purpose of preparing for Environmental Awareness Day;
- Tuesday 27th July at 10.30 am.