



**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
26th NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.00PM**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs M Barry (Chairman), Mrs J Layton, R Jones, A Limb, P Pickering, A Harper, M Brown, Mrs B Willimott, R Willimott

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT Cllr Mrs D Harper

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs L Murphy (Clerk & RFO), Mr A Bone (Sports & Community Centre Manager)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs J Handley, Mrs M Handley, E Cubley

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
17	<u>Declarations of interest</u> Cllr Brown declared an interest in agenda item 5 being a member of Broxtowe Borough Council's Planning Committee.	
18	<u>To appoint a Vice Chairman</u> There were no expressions of interest from those members present. It was agreed that the position of Vice Chairman of the Committee would now remain vacant until after the elections in May 2019.	
19	<u>To approve the minutes of the meeting 22nd October 2018</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 22 nd October 2018 had been previously circulated and were approved and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Jones asked what the current position was with the play area and parks/open spaces funding. The Clerk advised that this matter was to be discussed under agenda item 6 but as the project was over £10,000 a tender document would have to be drawn up. This would be done over the Christmas period in preparation for the works to take place in early 2019.	Clerk
20	<u>To discuss planning applications</u> Members expressed disappointment that the former Ram Inn had recently been demolished. Cllr Brown advised that this appeared to have happened without having been through Broxtowe Borough Council's planning system as the last application was made in 2017 to turn the premises into a single dwelling. <u>REF: 18/00694/ROC - Variation of conditions 4 of planning Ref: 15/00525/FUL solar farm land off Long Lane Watnall NG16 1HY</u> The Chairman advised that this application had now been withdrawn. Cllr Limb advised that he had recently visited a similar site in Mansfield to the one proposed and fairly high levels of noise could be heard from the generators. <u>REF: 18/00687/FUL - Land at Acorn Avenue/Thorn Drive,</u> The Chairman circulated a draft response to this application prepared by Cllr R Willimott. Mr A Bone joined the meeting at 7.20pm. Cllr Willimott talked members through the previous planning history for this site and the draft response. He stated that he felt that although the Parish Council had objected to previous applications it should now support this latest proposal and recommend that it proceeds to approval. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the response written by Cllr Willimott to Broxtowe Borough Council's Planning Department on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllrs A Harper & Mrs D Harper joined the meeting at 7.24pm	Clerk
21	<u>To discuss play area</u> The Clerk reminded members that the Parish Council had previously made a decision to use this financial year's allocation of play area and parks/open spaces improvement grant funding from Broxtowe Borough Council to replace/refurbish equipment and safety surfacing at Beauvale Park, along with possibly some Parish Council funds. It had been planned that the works would be completed around March 2019 but possibly into April dependent on costs as	



	<p>the Council may need to use some or all of the 2019/20 grant allocation as well. The Parish Council have also been advised that funds are due to be allocated from the Section 106 monies due for the Mill Road development to be used for replacement fencing and gates. The Clerk went on to advise that she had recently received a complaint from a member of public about damaged safety surfacing at Beauvale and that Playground Supplies (contractor employed by Broxtowe Borough Council to carry out weekly play area inspections) have also been reporting concerns around the safety surfacing to the slide, swing areas and sharp objects in the fall area of the wooden trim trail. There has also been some vandalism over the last few months and problems with groups of teenagers hanging around the play area after dark. Following discussions with Playground supplies she thought it necessary that some safety surfacing works needed to be done now and could not really wait until March/April of next year. A discussion took place and Cllr Pickering stated that he would prefer to see the park closed over the Winter and refurbishment works carried out altogether rather than doing some bits now and others later. Cllr Limb stated that the park was a well-used community facility and this should not be closed. Members then discussed the option of closing part of the play area but it was felt that given the layout and the areas involved this would be difficult to do. It was agreed that the play area would be closed completely over the Winter whilst a scheme to carry out the necessary works is looked at and re-opened around Easter time next year.</p>	Clerk
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The meeting closed at 7:40pm

Chairman