



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.00pm at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones (Chair), Huw Jones, Ralph Vaughan, Kevin Ullah and Julia Charles.

Clerk: Ceri Mortimer

In Attendance: Mr Jim Goodwin and Cllr Rod McKerlich

108 Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Clive Morgan, Kieran Webster and Angharad Richards.

109 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations received

110 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 October 2017

The draft minutes were received, amended and then approved.

111 Environment Reports - update

Appendix A – Chair's Report for November 2017

Appendix B – Graeme Moore's Report on Windsor Gardens

Chair Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones gave a verbal overview of both reports which was received and noted.

Mr. Jim Goodwin was thanked by the Chair and committee for his involvement with the coppicing arrangements and the planting of the Chair's Oak and Liquid Amber trees.

Mr Jim Goodwin left the meeting

112 Budget for 2018

This item was deferred for full council

113 Any Other Business with prior consultation with the Chair

There was no other business

114 Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th January 2018

This item was noted.

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: 1st February 2018

**APPENDIX A
(Minute no 111)**

Report for Environment Committee November 23rd, 2017

Windsor Gardens

Graeme Moore has submitted a report on Windsor Gardens to the Clerk which is attached. He has not spent the four days in the gardens before the end of October that we had budgeted for, since the weather has been inclement. He does intend to pick out the ash saplings before Christmas but thinks that will only take a day or two. However, he also recommends the removal of hazel trees and some other work that needs at least a hand saw.

We have spoken to Dave Barnes who is happy to do this work in principle. Graeme has met Dave Barnes this week and shown him which hazel trees need to be cut back.

Recommendation: - That the allocated money for four days of work in October by Graeme Moore should be used flexibly between Mr Moore and Mr Barnes so that the work needed in Windsor Garden gets done.

Event November 25th

Planting a Liquidambar tree as a thank you to three previous councillors, Mike Diment, Chris St Leger and Sue McKerlich. This is to be funded by fellow Councillors.

Jim Goodwin is organising the details. We will be walking up from Radyr Woods to Windsor Gardens and should arrive between 11:15 am and 11:30am. The event will have finished by 12 noon. **We would be delighted to see new councillors at this event as well as those who have served for longer.** We do want to show our appreciation of the work that Mr Diment, Mr St Leger and Mrs McKerlich did for the community.

Granny Park

Planters

The planter has arrived and has been planted. The Community Council has not yet paid the lady who planted the planter for the flowers.

Bench

We had considered staining the wood with an oil based wood stain. Somebody has cleaned it, possibly using bleach. We will now wait until the spring before we do this, to enable the bleach (if that was what was used) to have been diluted out.

Brushwood

There are two piles of brushwood in the park. These seem to be getting smaller. We believe the residents are trying to keep the park tidy.

We have asked Mr Barnes if he can take some at least of the brushwood at the same time that he takes the Christmas Trees away. He will take as much as he can in one load. We will budget for removal of the rest of the brushwood.

The Sidings

Planters

The planters have arrived. They had not been planted two weeks ago.

Litter Bins

We can't move this forward as the land doesn't belong to Cardiff Council.

OCR

Planters

The planter has arrived. The OCR Management are not sure it is located in the best position. This needs to be resolved quickly as it would be lovely to have something colourful for the Christmas period.

Pentwyn

Path

The path becomes a set of quite deep puddles every winter. We have taken photographs and we have had an indication of the likely cost of putting soakaways beside the path. We would recommend that the turf is lifted in the sunken area and the spoil from the digging placed into the sunken area to raise it, and then the turf replaced.

This path is used extensively by children and parents going to Bryn Deri Primary School. The Community Council need to improve this path as soon as possible.

Estimated cost: £ 7,500

Tree work

Orange has completed the treework in Pentwyn. The company has not been paid for this work as yet.

Coppicing.

The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have set aside Sunday 26th November for coppicing in Pentwyn.

Outdoor nursery

We do not know how much progress has been made by Juliette Thomas on the outdoor nursery.

Daffodils.

There was a recommendation that we plant some daffodils in the park which has been accepted to spend £50 on daffodil bulbs and £50 to pay somebody to plant them. Juliette Thomas indicated that when her group gets going she would be very interested in helping us with bulb planting.

Cardiff Council were asked if they had daffodil bulbs that we could buy or have, but there were none available.

Since the recommendation was for wild daffodils, we will budget for the purchase of wild daffodil bulbs for planting in September 2018

Dan y Bryn

Benches

Still are not mended. The materials have yet to be ordered, we have discovered what the hold up on the materials was and the problem has been sorted. Hopefully we will soon see these benches repaired.

Tree work

Orange has completed the tree work in Dan y Bryn. The company has not been paid for this work as yet.

Coppicing.

The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers has spent two days coppicing in Dan y Bryn.

Making the path mobility scooter friendly.

We have had an estimate for dropping the curb at point of entry to the wood and then making the path suitable for mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

Radyr Woods

We have asked Orange to completely fell Tree 58 behind Woodfield Avenue. The tree has been made safer but has not been felled. We have requested that it should be felled completely and we will request this again.

The quotes for the Tree Work have come in. Orange was the most reasonable quote and it was decided to use Orange. There is a priority list indicating which trees need to be dealt with most urgently and the Clerk will use the list to work out how many trees the Council can have done, with the sum set aside for tree work for Radyr Woods. The Clerk will contact Orange to inform the company that they have the contract and to tell Orange which trees should be done this year.

Radyr Woods Cont'd

The September storm tore down several branches. The Radyr Woods Wardens have dealt with these in their latest working party.

The treads on City Steps needed attention. The Radyr Woods Wardens repaired them in their latest working party. They also cleared the steps of leaves.

We are grateful to the Radyr Woods Wardens for the work they do in the woods.

Event Chair's Oak. November 25th meet at the Children's playground Fisher Hill Way at 10:45 am for an 11 am. planting. There was a strong recommendation that we should have a replanting program in the woods. The Council decided that it would be good to plant a tree to recognise the work done by the Chair of the Community Council. **The first Chair to have a Chair's Oak will be Tyrone Davies. All councillors are invited to join us in the woods. Please wear Wellington Boots.** The Council has taken advantage of its signing up to the Charter for Trees, Woods and People and has requested a Sessile Oak at a suitable size for planting from the scheme the Charter is promoting.

Jim Goodwin, Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens will undertake the arrangements to make the planting work well.

Benches

Most of the tables and benches are not in a good condition and we will have to have a rolling programme to replace at least one a year.

However, the disabled bench has been delivered to the Community Council and we have been told that Radyr Woods Wardens intend to install it during the first spring working party.

Issues

There have been groups of youngsters gathering in the woods. We are aware that they are experimenting with drugs. However, the last litter pick in the woods found no evidence of any untoward activity in the woods, which is excellent news.

Ffordd Las

We will aim to replace the broken bench in next year's budget.

Difficult to be sure but there seems to be some deliberate planting of shrubs in that area. Next year, we should aim to investigate whether or not we could make that planting more pleasant.

Plaque Rhodri Morgan

We have not made any further progress this month.

Terms of Reference

Having terms of reference will be helpful. This is in abeyance for the moment.

Penrhys Pilgrimage

CEMEX has indicated a willingness to help us improve paths that link Radyr and Pentyrch. This would solve the problem of the poor-quality link in Radyr in this pilgrims' route. We hope to move this forward this winter. The Rights of Way officer for Cardiff Council and the main contact at Cemex has met Allan Cook and the Chair of the Environment to look at the path that goes on from Pant Tawel lane which is one of our public rights of ways. It was a positive meeting but there were issues that would need sorting and the Rights of Way officer was going to liaise with Cemex.

Ash Path

The Community Council need to place notices at both ends of this path as part of the process of claiming it as a public right of way.

Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees

We have met with the RMA and we have the following dates:

Thursday 30th November 10:30am Erect tree in The Sidings.

Monday 4th December, evening. Bollards to be placed along the wall of Windsor Gardens. This is to allow the lorry to park close enough to the location of the hole for the Christmas tree in the gardens

Tuesday 5th December Morning 10:30am Erect tree in Windsor Gardens

Tuesday 5th December Afternoon 2:30pm Erect tree in the Granny Park

Friday 8th December Christmas Lights Event

It is hoped as many Councillors as possible will attend this community event.

Friday 5th January Dismantle Christmas Trees

Dave Barnes who erects and dismantles the trees has the dates November 30th, Dec 5th and Jan 5th booked for the Christmas Trees.

The new lights have arrived.

We have arranged for the lights to be checked by an independent electrician so that we will be covered for insurance purposes.

Christmas Lights in Station Road

The Clerk has written to the firm Floodlighting and Electrical Services to confirm that the Community Council will pay for the installation of Christmas lights in Station Road ready for December 8th and the dismantling of them in January The Clerk has requested that the company deal directly with Nick Hawkins on the practical details of installing the lights.

CADW

We will however continue to maintain the Burnt Mound site in Radyr Woods as long as we can afford to do so.

Open Spaces

We are delighted that the Open Spaces Society having seen our response to the Welsh Government's consultation has made the point that all paths created in new developments should have immediate status as public rights of way.

Appendix B - WINDSOR GARDENS, RADYR, CARDIFF – Graeme Moore

Garden maintenance as discussed 21 August 2017:

Thursday 24 August 2017

Cleared litter to on-site bins; grubbed up and removed bramble throughout shrubberies and removed arisings from site; uprooted small ash and other saplings throughout; pruned low branches overhanging paths.

Friday 25 August 2017

Pruned dead and diseased limbs from *Rhododendron* alongside Heol Isaf; pruned excessive ivy from base of boundary wall and all 'arborescent' growth from coping; commenced pruning ornamental shrubs.

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Pruned *Photinia x fraseri*, *Rosa spp.*, *Rhododendron ponticum* 'Variegatum', and *Pieris japonica* 'Variegata', in west end border; shredded all arisings from shrub pruning and placed them as deep litter in areas of anti-social behaviour in south-west corner.

Notes

Established trees and shrubs in Windsor Gardens, Radyr (August 2017):

East End

Rhododendron ponticum (group)

Ligustrum (Privet)

Tree – Purple beech

Pyracantha

South side (to west boundary)

Rosa rugosa rubra

Hebe

Rosa rugosa rubra

Tree – *Prunus*

Ligustrum (Privet)

Tree – *Betula pendula*

Tree – *Corylus avellana* (Hazel)

Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Column'

Pyracantha rogersiana 'Soleil d'Or'

Choisya ternata

Tree – *Fraxinus (ornus ?)*

Tree – *Corylus avellana*

Ilex aquifolium (Holly)

Laurus nobilis (Bay)

Aucuba japonica

Lonicera nitida

Ilex aquifolium (Holly)

Skimmia japonica (group of 3)

Ligustrum (variegated Privet)

Buddleia

Fatsia japonica

Cont'd Established trees and shrubs in Windsor Gardens, Radyr (August 2017):

West end

Hydrangea

Cupressus macrocarpa ('Goldcrest' ?)

Rosa spp.

Rhododendron ponticum 'Variegatum'

Photinia x fraseri

Prunus (Laurel)

Pieris japonica 'Vaiegata'

Ligustrum (Privet)

Griselinia littoralis

Hydrangea

Tree – *Prunus*

Cotoneaster dammeri

Sambucus nigra (Elder)

Trees in lawn

Quercus robur

Crataegus ?

Sorbus

Recommendations

All the trees should be inspected by an arboriculturist and most crowns reduced or thinned to maintain their health, to limit spread over boundary with neighbouring property, and to let light into the shrubberies below. The suckers should be removed from the base of the Sorbus in the lawn.

Some heavy pruning will also be required to reduce the clumps of hazel and holly to let light into the shrubs below. This will involve the expense of a chipper to create a mulch that can be spread on the ground.

Many of the younger shrubs will benefit from cutting back each year for a few years to build up a strong framework of branches. Variegated shrubs should have green shoots removed when they appear.

The borders have suffered a gradual decline and might be rejuvenated by a gradual process of renewal by pruning and infill planting and feeding (with Growmore tree and shrub fertiliser or similar general fertiliser). This might be done as a series of small projects over a period of, say, five years.