

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM AT MILLFIELDS PAVILION**

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr G Fisher
Cllr N Dyne
Cllr S Martin
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr M Wetherfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

1. To elect a Chairman.
Resolved: That Cllr Whyte be elected as Chairman (Prop Cllr Pearce, 2nd Cllr Dyne) All in favour.
2. To receive Apologies for Absence.
Cllr C Norman- Personal
Cllr G Norman-Personal
3. To elect Vice-chairman.
Resolved: That Cllr G Fisher be elected as Vice Chairman (Prop Cllr Pearce, 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.
4. To Receive Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda.
None.
5. To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 17th March 2026.
Resolved: That the minutes of 17th March 2026 be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Dyne) 2 in favour. 4 Abstentions.
6. Public Forum.
To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.
Time Allowed 10 minutes.
None.
7. Garden plots:
 - 7.1 To receive an update on general matters relating to the garden plots and agree actions.
Report provided.
A lengthy discussion took place about the matters raised.
Cllr Martin spoke stating there were many trees around the plots that need cutting back.
Cllr Dyne felt that matters should be self-policing.
Cllr Fisher wondered if the rules on trees needed amending as trees take so much water from the plots.
A discussion took place as to whether an allotment association should be set up.
Cllr Martin spoke to say that the fence along the Eastern boundary is trodden down and she does not see how it can be replaced.
Cllr Fisher noted that the woodland was being used for disposal of weeds and in doing so probably damaged the fencing. This practice is to stop. Regulations state that plots should be kept clear and composting carried out. Clerk outlined the current way concerns over plot maintenance are dealt with.
Cllr Whyte reported a verbal complaint that fruit had been "stolen" from the plots.
Clerk asked for a decision on the fallow plot. Members felt that resting the plot was acceptable but that it should be covered with a membrane to prevent the spread of weeds to other plots.
Cllr Fisher requested an invitation be extended to all committee members to the next plot inspection on 10th August 2026.
Resolved: That an email is sent to all plot holders covering the points raised and asking for opinions on the formation of an allotment associating by 1st September 2026. (Prop Cllr Wetherfield, 2nd Cllr Dyne) All in favour.

Resolved: That the Clerk obtain quotes for replacement chain link fencing on Eastern boundary (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

Resolved: That plot 18 be advised that the plot requires covering whilst fallow to prevent the spread of weeds (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

7.2 To review annual garden plot rent.

Resolved: That this be held over until full Council has considered setting an annual increase related to CPI/RPI which will apply. (Prop Cllr Dyne, 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

7.3 To consider request to add 3rd party to tenancy agreement plot 11.

Resolved: That the request be approved. (Prop Cllr Martin 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

8. St John the Baptist Churchyard.

8.1 To consider condition of tree 897 and agree actions.

Cllr Whyte spoke to state that the tree was dead.

Report from Clerk advised that a faculty will be required from the Diocese of Ely and also planning permission as the churchyard is in a conservation area.

Cllr Dyne questioned why the Parish Council was responsible. Chairman advised of “closed” status and the Parish Councils agreement to take over maintenance taken in the 1970’s.

Resolved: That the Clerk obtain quotes for removal of the tree. (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

9. Cemetery.

9.1 To review cemetery fees.

Resolved: That this be held over until full Council has considered setting an annual increase related to CPI/RPI which will apply. (Prop Cllr Dyne, 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

10. To consider replacement of sign to entrance Engineers Wood.

Members considered this was an important part of the Parish history and that it should be replaced.

Resolved: That the sign be replaced at cost £232 plus VAT (Prop Cllr Martin, 2nd Cllr Dyne) All in favour.

11. To receive a summary of meeting with project leader “CCC’s Nature Recovery From the Ground Up Project” and agree actions.

Report provided on the meeting held between Clerk and CCC.

Cllr Fisher spoke regarding his concerns over the purchase of the woodlands and the cost of ongoing maintenance.

Cllr Whyte explained the reasonings behind the decision to purchase.

Resolved: That pre promotion work is carried out before a date for a meeting is set. (Prop Cllr Martin, 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

12. Correspondence:

(i) To consider email from garden plot holder regarding dress code and language of tenants.

It was agreed that bad language is not acceptable but that plot holders must impose some amount of self-policing.

Resolved: That the matter be included in the general email (see item 7.1) (Prop Cllr Martin, 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

13. Items to report.

- Cllr Dyne requested a review of grass cutting Holywell Front. Chairman advised that this would require a request for an agenda item to be sent into the Clerk.
- Clerk reported that a resident had relayed a message that the Ferryboat was unhappy about the amount of litter being placed in their bins from visitors to the Front.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman

Date