

NEWQUAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTE REF:	Minutes of the Environment & Facilities (E&F) Committee Meeting held on 09 July 2024 at 7:00pm, in the Council Chamber, Marcus Hill, Newquay.	ACTIONS:
	<p><u>Present</u></p> <p>Cllrs K Larsen, S Slade, D Creek, M North, A Hannan, L Gardener, O Monk</p>	
	<p><u>Also attending</u></p> <p>Mr J Piwecki (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs L Hughes (Corporate Service Manager), Mr J Ashton (Environment Manager),</p>	
EF097/24	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received by Cllrs K Towill</p>	
EF098/24	<p><u>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</u></p>	
EF098/24 (A)	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>A. 09 July 2024</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen , seconded by Cllr S Slade and</p> <p>RESOLVED to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 09 July 2024.</p>	
EF099/24	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>None</p>	
EF100/24	<p><u>Open Session for Electors of Newquay - Public Question time</u></p> <p><u>Member of the public 1 - Jason Russell</u></p> <p>My questions are about the grass cutting in Newquay and the lack of it. I have been in contact with Cormac and had an official 5 dates given in which they cut in my area so far this has only happened twice. One of the dates given was during no mow May, I have been told t should be 6 weeks between cuts and it has been over 12 since the last cut. I contacted Cormac about brambles and weeds on the path on way to Morrisons – they turned up to action it a few days later. I have been trying to track how the billing is completed for this. I don’t now how it works. If they don’t complete the work they should who checked do they still get paid. I contacted them in end of July about grass opposite Morrisons – they said it was missed my mistake. But who checks their work?</p>	

Cllr K Larsen

Thank you, so you're asking about the grass cutting on verges. That's not Newquay Town Council that is Cornwall Council's responsibility. We have two Cornwall Councillors here who may be able to help.

Member of the Public 1 – Jason Russell

I also own a place in Wadebridge, Newquay Town Council increased the Council Tax this year by 27% , Wadebridge by 7%. Now I have never seen Newquay looking so weed invested as it has done this year. I know the Greens voted to get rid of weed spraying and I get that but there doesn't seem to be a plan B.

Cllr K Larsen

So there was a Plan B, if residents had any concerns about areas of Newquay then they could contact us direct and we haven't received any as far as I am aware.

Member of the Public 1 – Jason Russell

But you all live in Newquay and must have seen them and the mess it is.

Cllr K Larsen

Yes, I do look at them.

Member of the Public 1 – Jason Russell

The difference between the verge and curbs. So Newquay Town Council manage weed spraying for curbs. So anything that is on the verge is Cornwall Council maintained. Other than the centre of town NTC was spraying glyphosate which is seen by many as dangerous we have now stopped that. However if any of the residents had issues with any weeds in the curbs we have it on record we were happy to receive this information and had budget to deal with complaints. We then could manage them with other methods.

The Councillors then had a discussion with the resident regarding other methods of weed management and what other Towns do to tackle this.

Member of the Public 1 – Jason Russell

Just to clarify any damage that is done to the roads by the growth of weeds that have not been managed will then be the responsibility of Cornwall Council to sort out and pay for.

Cllr K Larsen

Yes

Cllr S Slade

We for years have assisted Cornwall Council to manage weeds and essentially we are double taxing residents should we be doing this.

Cllr L Gardner

We are about to have a big debate about this and I would urge you to stay and listen. I have been a Town Cllr for 8 years and in all that time Newquay Town Council have been responsible for weed spraying. A decision was made to stop spraying which I am against. It was also decided that we would only then manage 10% of the weeds within the town using other methods. I also agree the Town is a disgrace.

Every Town Council within Cornwall of which there are 212, are responsible for their own management of weed control. So I agree that we need to get on with it

Member of the Public 1 – Jason Russell

I feel if I was a tourist coming to Newquay I would seriously consider about whether I ever came back due to the state of it.

Cllr K Larsen

Well, I have been looking in other towns in the UK and I feel it is the same in other places. There is also a growing concern of the use of glyphosate. There are many places that have now stopped use of this chemical. They are looking at other options which is what we have done. I have personally put a lot of effort into getting this sorted and there are many other places that are significantly more overgrown than Newquay. We have had many emails about people who are happy with the stopping of using glyphosate.

Cllr O Monk

I agree with you to some degree about not using glyphosate. However you are right we do not have a Plan B. This Committee against my wishes have chosen to stop using weed control on 90% of the roads with only 10% being covered. I have had many people sharing concerns about the ingress of weeds I think it is outrageous we have got ourselves into this situation. I share your concerns.

Cllr K Larsen

There was Plan B. We have never directed anyone to do anything manually – our team did this on our land. We have not received any complaints that I am aware of.

The Officer did clarify complaints have been received today.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gardner , seconded by Cllr A Hannan and

RESOLVED unanimously to move agenda item 81 to be discussed next.

<p>EF101/24</p>	<p><u>Manage, maintain and enhance town council owned and devolved open and green spaces, parks, play parks and car parks</u></p>	
<p>EF101/24 (A)</p>	<p>A. <u>Environmental Service Managers Report</u></p> <p>The Environment Manager provided the Committee with his report. He specifically highlighted areas of concerns around the current weeding practices that his team are undertaking. The team have started weeding by hand as a trial.</p> <p>Members discussed in detail the issues that have arisen. Members continued their discussions around the other options that are available.</p> <p>The Environment Manager wished to gauge a steer from Committee regarding the Bin Store next to the Killacourt and making some changes. The Bin Store is being used for Anti-Social behaviour and left in an unpleasant state. The Environment Manager would like to investigate installing additional general waste and recycling bins and removing the bin store. Members discussed the only concern being that this area is used by the tenant on the Killacourt. The Environment Manager will investigate further and review options for tenants bins.</p> <p>Cllr L Gardner enquired as to any further new locations for the speed awareness signs. The Environment Manager & Deputy Town Clerk provided an update that more locations are being reviewed.</p> <p>Cllr A Hannan wished to thank the Environment Manager & Team for the Hanging Baskets this season.</p> <p>The Environment Manager provided an update on the possible repairs to South Fistral Play Park.</p>	
<p>EF101/24 (A)(1)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr O Monk and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to repair the multiplay unit at South Fistral Play area at a cost of £748.36.</p>	
<p>EF101/24 (A)(i)</p>	<p>Ai. <u>Huers Hut – Lighting</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update to all Members.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr S Slade and</p>	
<p>EF101/24 (A)(i)(1)</p>	<p>RESOLVED unanimously to agree and permit the Huer’s Hut to be lit up for specific events throughout the year, with all lighting requests managed through the events booking system. Doing so in conjunction with the Newquay Lions who will be storing & managing the equipment required.</p>	
<p>EF101/24 (B)</p> <p>EF101/24 (C)</p>	<p>B. <u>Concrete Waves Working Party</u></p> <p>Cllr O Monk provided a brief update and highlights issues around possible access to the electric box. The Environment Manager will look into this.</p>	

C. Other devolved open green spaces, parks, play parks and car parks

Cllr L Gardner provided an update to all on the Trenance Play Park upgrade. A public consultation is to happen with all input and decisions on the winning decision to be done by the public. Cllr L Gardner suggested the designs are placed up in the Library to allow people to view and vote.

Cllr O Monk has started to have some preliminary discussions regarding CIL funding for the upgrade to the Mayfield Play Park. Cllr O Monk is aware there was a suggestion in a previous meeting to add an additional park in the Town Centre. Cllr O Monk suggested there may be an option to have Mayfield devolved to the Town Council with its open space if a further park is required. Members discussed.

EF102/24

G&R Referral – Biodiversity Policy & Weed Control

Cllr K Larsen wished to make a small amendment to the wording of the policy that the word synthetic and non-organic methods are added to point 10. This is so that it would state we would not use synthetic pesticides and non-organic methods.

Cllr A Hannan requested a named vote on the proposal regarding the Biodiversity Policy.

Cllr A Hannan is concerned that only 10% of weed management is being considered and leaving 90%. This policy has never gone to Full Council there are going to be many Councillors who will not be privy to these discussions. The Committee is then looking to approve a contract on the 10%, 90% ratio without the whole Council having input.

Members discussed in great detail. Varying opinions were brought to the table.

It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr S Slade and

RESOLVED to write to Cornwall Council to inform them that as of 2025 Newquay Town Council will no longer maintain any highway or curb vegetation this will solely be their responsibility.

EF102/24
(1)

3 members voted against the proposal

Cllr L Gardner wished to make a proposal to publicly consult on weed management with the main Question being 'Do you support Newquay Town Council reducing their weeding killing by 90% in this Town'. This was seconded by Cllr A Hannan. Cllr L Gardner withdraw this motion.

Councillors requested a named vote on the below proposal.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gardner, seconded by Cllr A Hannan the E&F Committee complete a public survey on the contents of the Biodiversity Policy.

<p>EF102/24 (2)</p>	<p>The proposal failed with 3 votes for and 4 votes against.</p> <p>Cllrs L Gardner, A Hannan & O Monk voted for Cllrs K Larsen, D Creek, M North & S Slade voted against</p> <p>Councillors requested a named vote on the below proposal.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr D Creek and</p> <p>RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Governance & Resources the Biodiversity Policy with the wording amended to Point 10. Adding in that we would not use synthetic pesticides or non-organic methods.</p> <p>Cllrs K Larsen, D Creek, M North & S Slade voted for Cllrs A Hannan, L Gardner & O Monk voted against</p>	<p>G&R</p>
<p>EF103/24</p>	<p><u>Newquay in Bloom Report</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk will send round the report to all Members.</p> <p>Within the report was a request for funding. Newquay in Bloom have asked for supportive to cover the cost of 3 Members and the Mayor attending the South West in Bloom Awards at a cost of £120.00.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen , seconded by Cllr A Hannan and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to pay for tickets to cover the Mayor & 3 Members of Newquay in Bloom attending the South West in Bloom Awards at a cost of £120.</p>	
<p>EF103/24</p>	<p><u>Environment Working Party</u></p> <p>The main items for discussion are the Bio-Diversity Policy updates over future months.</p>	
<p>EF104/24</p>	<p><u>South West Costal Path Signage</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk provided a brief update.</p>	
<p>EF105/24</p>	<p><u>Facilities Service Manager Report</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk provided a report and discussed the recommendations and decisions required.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr O Monk , seconded by Cllr A Hannan and</p>	
<p>EF105/24 (1)</p>	<p>RESOLVED unanimously to purchase a new door and frame from Dainton at a cost of £437.50 from the Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals Budget.</p>	

<p>EF105/24 (2)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr M North, seconded by Cllr O Monk and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to give delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to spend up to £2,000.00 to spend on the installation of a new door/door locks for the Railway Station from the Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals Budget within Public Toilets Central.</p>	
<p>EF105/24 (3)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr O Monk, seconded by Cllr M North and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to give delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to spend up to £1,000.00 to source a drainage survey for Marcus Hill from the Council Offices Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals Budget.</p>	
<p>EF105/24 (4)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr O Monk and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to give delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to source and install a new Stainless Steel door for the Watergate Bay toilet within the Watergate Bay Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals budget subject to attempting to source two more quotations.</p>	
<p>EF105/24 (5)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen , seconded by Cllr D Creek and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously giving delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk and the Communications Officer to source A3/A4 poster cases for the toilet facilities using the Other Toilets Expenditure Budget within Public Toilets Central.</p>	
<p>EF106/24</p>	<p>Cllr L Gardner requested that Officers look to have a new sign installed at Mount Wise Centre with details on how to book. Also asking the Communications Officer to do more promotions on the space and costs.</p> <p><u>Correspondence</u></p>	
<p>EF107/24</p>	<p>None.</p> <p><u>Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25</u></p>	
	<p>Cllr L Gardner wished to see have a added agenda point for Grants and link in with the Grants Officer.</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
	<p>It was proposed by Cllr S Slade, seconded by Cllr K Larsen and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.</p> <p><i>(Cllrs O Monk & L Gardner left the meeting at 9pm)</i></p>	
<p>EF108/24</p>	<p><u>Exempt Business</u></p>	

	<p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen , seconded by Cllr M North and</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 the public and press leave the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> <p>Confidential Addendum Ref: 10.09.24/001</p> <p><u>Solar Panels – Mount Wise Centre</u></p>	
<p>EF108/24 (A)</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr A Hannan and</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve the Solar Panel Installation Quote of £11.176.00 for Mount Wise and RECOMMEND to Governance & Resources a release the required funds from the Utilities EMR.</p> <p>Cllr D Creek abstained from the vote.</p>	<p>G&R</p>
<p>EF108/24 (B)</p>	<p><u>Weed Control Contract 2024-25</u></p> <p>Members discussed.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr D Creek, seconded by Cllr K Larsen and</p> <p>RESOLVED to give delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk, Environment Service Manager, Chair & Vice-Chair to utilise the Weed Control budget and to get a quote and book a road sweeper to clean the road network (except from the Town Centre) within the budget.</p>	
<p>EF108/24 (B)(1)</p>	<p>Against A Hannan</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr S Slade and</p> <p>RESOLVED to research with the grants officer going forward to look for grants available to use synthetic methods.</p>	
<p>EF108/24 (B)(2)</p>	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>EF109/24</p> <p>EF110/24</p>	<p><u>Date, venue and time for the next meeting</u></p> <p>The next Environment & Facilities Committee will be on Tuesday 10 October 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Marcus Hill.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.30 pm</p> <p>Signed..... Chairman Cllr K Larsen</p> <p>Date.....</p>	