MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES BELLHOUSE LANE, GRAPPENHALL ON 22 JULY 2025.

Present: Councillors Davies (Chair), Dolan, Furnell, Johnson and Worsley

Also present: Martin Stuart, Parish Warden

In Attendance: Beverley Doward, Assistant Clerk to the Council

ACTION

1. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and the reason for absence for Cllrs Browne, Drogan and Speed be accepted.

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

3. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

Parks and Open Spaces

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
1	Tree planting		See Min 2025/6 below.	
2	Elizabeth Park	BD	The Officer at WBC has confirmed that he is progressing the Council's resolution to fund a 25sqm apron at the entrance to Elizabeth Park at a cost of £2750 + vat (Min 2025/43.1). However, he advises that the surfacing material may need to change to something similar to Hoppath, as this is only periodically available. An update is awaited.	Ongoing
3	Jubilee Park Gym Equipment	BD	The Personal Training sessions have been running since 23 June. Attendance after the first week has been limited. This may be due to the very hot weather experienced recently.	Ongoing
4	Bulb Planting	BD	The Contractor has confirmed that he will progress the Council's resolution to implement the bulb planting (Bees Mix) at Stockport Road opposite Deans Lane (Site 2) this year at a cost of £2835 + vat (Min 2025/43.3). The planting will take place between September - December. Specific date to be confirmed.	
5	Summer/ Winter bedding		See Min 2025/7 below.	
6	RoSPA reports	BD	Repairs to the safety gate at Diamond Park have been undertaken by WBC at a cost of £677.34 + vat and a new side panel for the slide as purchased at a cost	

			of £374.02 + vat. The Parish Warden has installed the new panel and undertaken repairs to the Carousel Supernova. The Assistant Clerk has obtained costings for the repairs to the safety surface areas at the parks see Min 2025/5 below.	
7	Design and Management Strategy	HS	BCA Landscapes have been informed of the Council's resolution to accept their submission at a cost of £14,355 + vat and expenses. Arrangements are being progressed for an Inception meeting of a Steering Group in September. GTPC volunteers are needed for the Steering Group as well as suggestions of stakeholders to be represented on the Steering Group. The consultants are undertaking some initial survey work over the summer.	Ongoing

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
8	Electric vehicle chargers	BD/LW/RF	WBC advise that it is in the process of changing the provider for the LEVI project. In principle agreement is awaited from United Utilities (UU) and Homes England (HE) regarding the installation of EV chargers at Stansfield Drive. The Assistant Clerk has chased UU and HE for a response. An update on work undertaken to investigate the potential for EV charging at the GYCA car park was provided. Cllr Williams will hand the information over to Cllr Furnell to take forward. In addition, Cllr Worsley will provide technical information on charging points to Cllr Furnell.	Ongoing
9	Air Source Heat Pump	BDa	A meeting is to be arranged between Magna Renewables and GYCA to agree the location for the fence to be repositioned.	Ongoing
10	Grappenhall Heys Working party	PW	Cllrs J McQuillian and P Warner are leading on progressing a joint Working Party to review the 2023 energy survey (Min 2024/29). No further information was available at the meeting.	Ongoing
11	Air quality	BD	At the last meeting of the CEE Committee, it was resolved to recommend to Council that signage be purchased to install in various locations within the Parish to encourage the drivers of vehicles to switch off their engines when stationary. It was also agreed to investigate the installation of air quality monitors on major arterial routes through the Parish (Min 2025/3.4). The Assistant Clerk will look to take forward this action in the coming months.	Ongoing

12	Community Events	ALL	The Committee discussed the potential to hold a community event at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden to promote environmental initiatives in Spring 2026.	Ongoing

4. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Committee were reviewed and agreed. It was **resolved to** refer the Terms of Reference to the next meeting of the Council for ratification. **BD**

5 Play surface repairs

In addition to the repairs to the play equipment referred to above (Min 3.6) the RoSPA reports identified the need for various repairs to the play surfaces at both parks. The Assistant Clerk presented costings for the necessary works at the meeting. It was **resolved** to accept the quote from Bounceback Safety Surfaces Ltd to undertake the works at a total cost of £4193 + vat (Jubilee Park £2202 and Diamond Park £1991). **BD**

6. Tree Planting

At the last meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee it was agreed that the Committee would investigate sites for future tree planting. Cllrs Dolan, Furnell and Davies along with the Parish Warden will form a working party to take this work forward. A first meeting of the working party will be arranged in August. **BDa/MD/RF/MS**

7. Winter 2025 bedding/hanging baskets

Bellfield Landscapes were unable to undertake the planting and provision of hanging baskets this year (Min 2025/33e). Council staff, along with Cllr Dolan worked together to replant the Broad Lane triangle and baskets and two residents helped with the installation of the hanging baskets. However, due to health and safety reasons relating to the installation of the hanging baskets such an arrangement is not acceptable going forward and alternative measures need to be sought. It was **recommended** that Council accept that the hanging baskets and irrigation system should be dismantled in the Autumn and alternative measures be sought for installation at the various local centres in the Parish (Knutsford Road and Barley Road) in Summer 2026. **BD**

8. Book Swap

Work is being undertaken to investigate replacing the current book swap in Diamond Park with a new book exchange in a more accessible location. Cllr Dolan and the Parish Warden are to meet with representatives of Thelwall Men's Shed to discuss further. **MD/MS**

9. Planters

The feasibility of providing planters on the public realm is being explored. Cllr Dolan and the Parish Warden are to meet with representatives of Thelwall Men's Shed to discuss further. **MD/MS**

10. Christmas tree lights

The Parish Council previously funded Christmas lights on a tree at Thelwall Junior School. However, the tree has now been removed. Alternative sites for a Christmas tree in Thelwall have been explored. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of putting additional lights on the village green at Thelwall New Road, opposite Gigg Lane for Christmas 2025. **BD/RF**

11. Parish Warden update

The Parish Warden provided an update of recent/forthcoming activities (copy attached).

12. Budget Review

The Assistant Clerk presented the 2025/26 expenditure to date.