



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 4 January 2018 at 7.45pm at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs H Lloyd Jones, R Vaughan, A Richards

In Attendance: Julie Hopkins, Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Wardens)

- 132 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs Clive Morgan, Huw Jones, K Ullah
- 133 To make declarations of Interest:** None
- 134 To Note the Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th October 2017 were signed. Minutes for 23rd November to be signed at January 18th Full Council meeting.
- 135 To receive an update:** Chair's Report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.
Appendix A (filed with these Minutes).
The Report was received and noted and the Chair, Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones gave the Committee a verbal overview.
Radyr Woods Warden Jim Goodwin requested a copy of Orange Forestry tree quote/contract for Radyr Woods. This was sent to him on 5 January 2017 by email.
- Thanks were extended to Jim Goodwin for his help with planting the Chairman's Oak in Radyr Woods and the Liquidamber in Windsor Gardens for retiring Members.
- The Chair has prepared a Grant Assistance Form for Radyr Woods Wardens which will be completed each year.
- Snowdrops will be ordered in the green, so Bryn Deri Primary School and Radyr Primary School can if they want, plant snowdrops, like they did in 2017.

Jim Goodwin left the meeting.

- 136 To discuss the Budget for 2018:** The draft Budget was received and noted. The Chair gave a verbal overview of the Budget.
Appendix B (filed with these minutes).
- There will be continuing tree work this year, mainly in Radyr Woods, following the advice given in the Tree Survey.
- One bench has been replaced at Ffordd Las and another one is to be ordered.
- Materials for Dan-y-Bryn Woods benches are on order.
- Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have expressed an interest in helping on other projects.

Christmas trees will be purchased from a different supplier for 2018.

The issue of the playground in Clos Parc Radyr had been raised. The playground is not owned by the Community Council.

Information about potentially dangerous trees overhanging Heol Isaf on the parcel of land at Woodfield Avenue had been passed to the County Councillor.

137 Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair: None

138 Date of next meeting: The next Environment meeting will be held on Thursday 1 February 2018 at 7.45pm.

Report for Environment Committee January 4th, 2018 Windsor Gardens

Event November 25th

Planting a Liquidambar tree as a thank you to three previous councillors, Mike Diment, Chris St Leger and Sue McKerlich. This went off very smoothly. Thanks to the hard work of Mr Jim Goodwin who organised the event.

Gardening

Graham Moore and David Barnes have worked together in the last month. Much of the hazel has been removed. The sorbus has been pruned. This had become a double tree, the original planted specimen and a wild rowan. The sorbus is not in good condition and removing the wild growth may hasten its demise. It may however give it some more years of glory.

There will come a time when we will have to remove the sorbus but hopefully not before the Liquidambar has grown big enough to cover the gap.

We will plant a few alliums this year to see how they grow in the park. If the trial run does well, we should consider having several groups of them to bring colour and structure to the borders in June and July.

Granny Park

Brushwood

We are hopeful that much of this will be removed at the same time as the Christmas trees are taken down.

The Sidings

Planters

The planters have arrived. They have been planted out and we have had some lovely photos from the residents in the Sidings who told us that they had made the planting session a community event and it had worked well.

OCR

Planter

Planting this is on hold due to discussions with RMA re siting of BBQ equipment and possible resurfacing of floor surface. We hope this will be resolved in time to have daffodils for Saint David's Day.

Pentwyn

Path

The path becomes a set of quite deep puddles every winter.

We have contacted the Cardiff Conservation Volunteers and they are interested in this project.

We hope to meet with them during January to discuss possible solutions.

In the meantime, we have budgeted for a possible spend of £7500 over the next two years.

Tree work

Orange has completed the treework in Pentwyn. The company has not yet invoiced the Community Council for this work.

We have received e-mails from a nearby house, re the trees. We have checked the relevant trees, both for work done on them and for the recommendations made for them. They have been treated as recommended in the Tree Survey. We have also been to look at the situation, but we will need to be shown what the issue is before we can make any further decisions.

Coppicing.

The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers CCV came and coppiced for us. As volunteers, everything they do is often a learning curve situation. There was some over enthusiastic cut back of some bushes all of which will recover but it did mean that we had to have some of the

stumps reshaped so they were no longer sets of short spears that children could hurt themselves on. We also had to remove some of the brash that had been cut down. We have met all the recommendations made for work to be done in 2017 in the Tree Survey and the Management Plan for Pentwyn.

Dan y Bryn

Benches

Still are not mended. The materials have not yet been 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. There was an allocation for these benches in the budget that was approved last January.

This is now becoming a major concern. We are very aware that zero tolerance works. When an area is well kept people tend to respond accordingly. If an area looks unkempt, problems such as fly-tipping start occurring.

We have already had to report broken glass dumped at one of the entrances to the wood. This was removed promptly by the County Council. We need to have these benches mended and looking good.

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. This is a project that is highly desirable but not as high a priority as the path at Pentwyn.

Estimated cost £10,000

We are hoping to walk this project with Cardiff Conservation Volunteers soon. In the meantime we have recommended that the council sets aside money to enable this work to be done in the next two years.

Radyr Woods

Event Chair's Oak. November 25th

This event went very well. The first Chair's Oak was that of Cllr Tyrone Davies. The Sessile Oak came from the Woodland Trust as the Council has signed up to the Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

Jim Goodwin, Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens made sure the event ran smoothly for which we are very grateful.

Tree Work

Orange has been informed that they have been awarded the contract for the tree work. We believe that this work will start very soon.

We have not yet had confirmation that Tree 58 has been completely felled.

Signpost

This has come down during the Christmas period. It is not clear whether it has collapsed because its posts had become rotten or because it was helped to fall. The Radyr Woods wardens will let us know as soon as possible.

Issues

Some of the Radyr Woods wardens met with the Chair of the Environment and the Chair of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council. This was a helpful meeting which allowed all the points in the letter the Council has received from the Radyr Woods wardens to be discussed. Both the Chairs expressed our gratitude to the wardens for the work they do as volunteers.

They advised us that they have provisionally arranged with Cardiff Conservation Volunteers three days of coppicing in Radyr Woods for 2018

They also informed us that a Risk Assessment would be sent to the Community Council's Clerk

Ffordd Las

We have budgeted to replace the broken seat. We also intend to ask Graham Moore if he will look at the shrubs around the seat and advise us how best to manage them.

Plaque Rhodri Morgan

We have contacted Julie Morgan who is very touched with the idea of putting a plaque up. She has promised to let us know which house her brother feels should carry the plaque.

Terms of Reference

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

Penrhys Pilgrimage

We have no news to report this month re the path between Pentyrch and Radyr which needs repairing.

Ash Path

The Community Council still needs to place notices at both ends of this path as part of the process of claiming it as a public right of way. We need to discuss the current situation with the Rights of Way Officer again.

Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees

Apart from the Granny Park, the Christmas trees this year were a disappointment.

Sadly, we were sent two trees that were not satisfactory. The process involves hauling the tree from the forest to Radyr and we found ourselves in a situation where we could not reschedule haulage in time for the Christmas Lighting Event.

We accepted the first tree for the Sidings but contacted the supplier and explained the tree was not up to standard. The supplier was apologetic. We discovered that the owner of the estate from where we buy the trees has not been well and has had help to manage the sale of trees. The second tree for Windsor Gardens was in worse condition. We were again in the position of having to accept it.

The third tree for the Granny Park was satisfactory.

All three trees were decorated, and all were able to be turned on at the appropriate time in the Christmas Lighting Event. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this possible, in particular Mike Diment, Chris St Leger and Mike Fairclough.

The Carol singing in Windsor Gardens was very good and well supported by parents and grandparents of the children singing. Our thanks go to both Radyr Primary school and Brynderi Primary school for making the lighting of the tree so memorable is such a lovely way. Thanks too to Peter Esswood for rehearsing the youngsters.

December 22nd. We were advised that the tree in Windsor Gardens appeared to be leaning. We asked David Barnes if he could inspect the tree.



December 23rd David Barnes phoned to say that the tree was physically moving the tube container in the ground and that it could fall at any time

We investigated ways of replacing the tree. However the tube in the ground was no longer secure. The soil was very wet and was offering no support to the tube. Reluctantly we took the decision on Health and Safety grounds to take the tree down.



The good news from this year's experience is that we are now able to look at other approaches to village Christmas trees.

It may be better if we have a smaller tree that can have decorations hand made by school children or members of the community placed on it. Or a tree that carries wishing stars, where people can write a wish on one side of the star or a name of a person they wish they could see over Christmas but can't for whatever reason and then hang the star on the tree.

We might be better off planting a tree, such as a Cyprus Deodara.

Once we have decided on which option we are going to take, we will have to make sure that if the tube system is going to be used, it is concreted into its location.

We will report back as soon as possible.

The Mound

This is on Cardiff Council's land. However, the grass has to be hand raked after it is cut, and we were asked if we could find volunteers to help.

The grass in the field has been cut. The trees on the mound are growing and we have been advised these must not grow too high. We recommend that we remind Cardiff council of the need to keep all the growth on the mound bush rather than tree like.

Snowdrops

We hope the Primary schools will want to plant snowdrops out again this year. We have budgeted for the snowdrops. We need to order them as soon as possible so they will arrive in time to be planted before the school half-term. Last year we had to keep watering the snowdrops during the school holidays as they arrived the last day before the holiday.