



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 2nd May 2019 at 7.00pm at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones, Ralph Vaughan, Myles Vatsaloo

In Attendance: Julie Hopkins, Lynne Thomas, Jim Goodwin

- 1 **To receive apologies for absence:** None
- 2 **To make declarations of Interest:** Cllr H Lloyd Jones (Chair of Environment) declared an interest under Minute number 3(viii) Item: (Penrhys Pilgrimage) in that she is the Chair of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Group.
- 3 **To note the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th March 2019:** The Minutes of the 7th March 2019 Environment meeting were approved and signed at the March 21st Full Council meeting as an accurate record and were duly noted.
- 4 **To receive an update:** The 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 Cllr H Lloyd Jones gave the Committee a verbal overview.

(i) **Windsor Gardens:**

Liquidambar Tree: The Liquidambar will be replaced with a more mature tree and protected with a tree guard. The tree guard has arrived and a new Liquidambar will now be purchased at a cost of £240. The cost of the Liquidambar was approved. Once planted, the Liquidambar will be looked after and watered by the R&MCC Handyman. The suggestion was made to ask Radyr Primary School if they would like to assist with the planting of the new tree.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to contact Radyr Primary School to ask if they would like to be involved in the planting of the Liquidambar.

Bench: A suggestion has been made to move the Bench adjacent to the neighbouring property to the top end of Windsor Gardens and install the WW1 Nurse and Tommy Soldier Silhouettes in its place. They were deemed to be a distraction for drivers turning out of Windsor Road onto Heol Isaf. We may be able to salvage the concrete base and install a new Planter obtained from Cardiff Council's "Love where you Live" team. This will be done towards the end of May.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to contact Cardiff Council "Love where you Live" team.

The Clerk has spoken with the R&MCC Handyman as to the logistics of moving the bench and silhouettes. The Handyman will look at this to ascertain the best way of removing the bench and report back to the Clerk. A Recommendation was made to allocate extra hours for the Handyman if required.

(ii) **Granny Park:**

There are two trees which needed attention. One of the trees has branches that are very close to power lines to the adjacent house. Western Power tree cutting team have under-pruned both the Willow Tree (T1) and Alder Tree (T2) to suitable growth points. The trees will still need some attention as outlined in the Tree Survey, apart from the under-prune. There is a lot of colour on the Azaleas that have been planted.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to invite Quotes for the Tree Works at the end of May.

(iii) **Radyr woods:**

Tree Works: Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Warden) has spoken with Orange Forestry and will go through the tree contract with them. There is an Ash tree at the rear of the bottom pond that needs to be felled as it has been identified as dangerous. There are several issues with felling in that it could fall across the pond and demolish the Boardwalk. The suggestion was made to fell it into the pond and then drag it out. The pond is full of thick silt so it may not sink. If it is left on top of pond children may try to walk across it which potentially could be dangerous. The safest option may be to drop the Ash tree into the lake. Jim Goodwin will discuss the options with Orange Forestry. R&MCC will meet any further difficulties that arise after the Ash tree has been felled.

David Barnes (DB Site Solutions) has pointed out that there are two trees with damaged branches near the bench which need to be looked at. Jim Goodwin will look at this and report back to the Clerk with his advice.

R&MCC will not be requesting quotes for any tree works at present as the weather has prevented the Radyr Woods Wardens checking the trees. Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Warden) will be meeting with Orange Forestry to check that all Red Tree Work has been carried out before the next tranche of work goes out to tender.

Signpost: This is still in safe storage and will be installed during the next working party.

Disabled Bench: The Bench has now been installed.

Container for Tool Storage: The Container is now in place and in use. A fence will be erected around the compound for security purposes. Radyr Woods Wardens to discuss with Dave Barnes (DB Site Solutions) the type of fence required.

Woodstore: The woodstore for Radyr Woods to store excess wood will be located inside the container compound. This will be a fenced in compound.

Boardwalk: The spare Boards have been collected from Fletchers and now being stored in the Container. Thanks to Ray Rivron for collecting the Boards.

Fallen Tree by Bronze Age Hearth: There is a fallen tree close to the Bronze Age Hearth and Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones and Jim Goodwin have checked this and it appears to be stable. Its damaged branches of a neighbouring standing tree. Those branches will require trimming to minimise the risk of damage to the standing tree. We will check both trees against our tree survey and decide how to proceed.

Footpath 49 – This footpath gets very muddy near the Kingfisher Pond. We have reported this to Cardiff Council Rights of Way Team as needing some attention as there doesn't appear to have been any work done during last Winter.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to ask Cardiff Council if they could improve the muddy section during the Autumn.

(iv) **Pentwyn Park:**

A lot of progress has been made in Pentwyn Park with regards to the path flooding during heavy rainfall. The old fence and all vegetation have now been removed and the Heras security fencing has been installed. The new drainage system has been installed and so far, the signs are that this has worked.

There was heavy rainfall over one weekend during March and a Resident of Caer Graig reported to R&MCC that the flooding on the path was “the worst it had ever been”. The Assistant Clerk checked this and there was significant flooding on the footpath and the grassed areas.

The flooding was checked again later in the day and the majority of the rainwater had drained away. This was monitored over the weekend and there was no further flooding apparent. We can assume that the French Drain is working.

Five quotes for a Retaining Wall Specification were received and R&MCC have appointed Keystone Structural Engineering to provide the Specification drawing with a view to going out to Tender. R&MCC will seek agreement with the car park owner. Once the retaining wall is built, we will keep the Heras fencing up for a period of time and budget for railings to go on top of wall in the next financial year. The vegetation between the Heras fencing is starting to grow back so will require strimming.

Action: Clerk/ Assistant Clerk to ask Dave Barnes (DB Site Solutions) to strim the vegetation between the Heras fencing and the old wall when he next cuts the grass.

- (v) **Dan-y-Bryn:** Malcolm Frazer at Arb Consultancy has checked the work that has already been carried out and R&MCC are now able to progress the next tranche of tree works.
- (vi) **Ffordd Las:** The old flower bed has been cleared and is now ready for planting. The two Primary Schools have received wild flower seeds given by Kew Gardens to sow in the two squares that have been created.
- (vii) **Terms of Reference:** Cllr Myles Vatsaloo has drafted a Terms of Reference which was discussed at the meeting. Cllr Vatsaloo will make the recommended amendments and pass the Terms of Reference document to the R&MCC Clerk for final review.
- (viii) **Penrhys Pilgrimage:** R&MCC have agreed to support the Penrhys Pilgrimage Project grant up to a maximum of £3,000 which is to be spent in Radyr & Morganstown. This is subject to receiving details of the bilingual Information Boards and Way Markers and will be spent on the design, manufacture and installation of the Boards. The Boards will contain information about amenities in the village. The first meeting to discuss the design for the information boards will take place in the next week. The local Primary schools have planted more Snowdrops at Ffordd Las which is on the Penrhys Pilgrimage route.

- (ix) **R&MCC Benches:** All benches in Radyr & Morganstown that are owned by R&MCC have now been added to the Asset Register and will be checked for safety every 6 months. There may be some extra furniture in Radyr Woods.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to check this with the Radyr Woods Wardens.

- (x) **Heol Isaf – Damaged Fence & Overhanging Vegetation:** Cllr Ralph Vaughan met with an Area Inspector from Cardiff Council on 6th March to look at the damaged fence along Heol Isaf and overhanging vegetation. Cardiff Council have confirmed that they are not responsible for this as the land is privately owned, possibly by Network Rail. Land registry search.

In relation to the overhanging vegetation along this stretch of Heol Isaf, the Area Inspector said Cardiff Council did not see this as being an issue as it is not obstructing the footpath. Cardiff Council also stated that the land is privately owned, possibly by Network Rail and to contact them.

Cllr Ralph Vaughan contacted Network Rail on 12th April to try and ascertain which part of the land is in their ownership. R&MCC were advised that this would be raised with Network Rail's local team with the possibility of arranging a site visit.

Cllr Kieran Webster has also raised an issue with overhanging and unmanaged trees. He has received a report from a Resident who lives on Gelynus Terrace in Morganstown that the trees opposite her home are not being managed and causing problems from overhanging branches, the risk of toppling in high winds and vast numbers of leaves during the Autumn. Cardiff Council have confirmed that these trees are not under Cardiff Council ownership and therefore they have no powers to deal with these.

Action: Clerk to check with the Land Registry to try and ascertain ownership of this land.

- (xi) **Windsor Road:** The area of road which has no footpath on the bend of Windsor Road has been passed to the Road Safety Team at Cardiff Council as the area in question is not under the ownership of Cardiff Council.

Action: Clerk to send a query to the Road Safety Team at Cardiff Council for a response regarding this.

- (xii) **Footpath Friends:** There are 50 paths in the community and R&MCC could consider setting up a footpath committee consisting of walkers who would be willing to keep an eye on a few designated paths which would enable the Community Council to pass information on quickly if any path has a problem. This is under consideration at present.

- (xiii) **Drain at Ash Tree & Walnut Tree Close:** Cllr R Vaughan has cleaned this drain out once again. R&MCC will check this intermittently and contact Cardiff Council if there are any issues.

- (xiv) **Land between Ash Tree and Walnut Tree Close:** Cardiff Council Parks Department have confirmed on 30th April that this parcel of land is under the Ownership of Cardiff Council. R&MCC held a management agreement for this land between 1983 and 1990, when this agreement was terminated. Cardiff Council have sent a letter confirming this.

(xv) **Community Litter Pick:** Keep Wales Tidy have organised another litter pick for Tuesday 14th May, meeting at Radyr Library at 9.45am. R&MCC Councillors were asked if they could attend this.

5 **Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair:** None

6 **To put forward any items for the next meeting:** None

7 **Date of next meeting:** To be agreed at the Annual meeting on 16th May 2019.

Meeting Closed.