

Proposal to dissolve the Environment and Leisure (E&L) committee and create a working group with similar membership.

Full Council Monday 18 March. Agenda item FC23: 160. Author: Cllr Dempsey-Gray

1. Background

- 1.1. There are very few actual proposals or actions agreed at the E&L
 - 1.1.1. EL23:10 - Proposal to approve expenditure above the Chair/Clerk Delegated authority:
 - 4 Speed Indicator Posts total £2,280. *Not really E&L Responsibility*
 - Insurance renewal at £1,519.19 *Not really E&L Responsibility*
 - Two 3m² gazebos total £1,200 *No longer E&L Responsibility*
 - 1.1.2. EL23:23.1: Proposal to reinstall the refurbished seat at the village hall.
 - 1.1.3. EL23:25: Proposal to split Glebe plot 39 in two.
 - 1.1.4. EL23:37.1: Proposal to purchase Christmas Trees.
 - 1.1.5. EL23 39.1: Proposal to set up a dedicated footpaths email account.
 - 1.1.6. EL23 39.2: Proposal to register footpath from FP9 to King Edwards Avenue as a Public Right of Way.
 - 1.1.7. EL23:59.1: Proposal to engage AB Trees to complete the works described in the tree works schedule.
- 1.2. The time taken for E&L meetings this year is approx. 13 hours plus several hours for each meeting for the Clerk to arrange, assemble the agenda and produce minutes.

2. The issue

- 2.1. As shown, actual productivity is very low considering the time absorbed.
- 2.2. There are several non-councillors at the committee and meetings tend to be discussive rather than focussed decision making.
- 2.3. While there is a place for a discussive forum, the E&L probably uses more time than necessary.
- 2.4. No one has willingly come forward to chair the E&L, without which it must close.

3. Requirements

- 3.1. There needs to be a group of people looking after E&L topics such as Cemetery, Allotments, tree maintenance etc.
- 3.2. They need to be able to report on topics to the community.
- 3.3. They need to be able to have decisions made on actions and expenditure.

4. Options

- 4.1. Migrate all work to the full Council. Because there is no one willing to chair the E&L, it will close which will mean that all the discussion will move to the full Council, which is untenable.
- 4.2. Create an E&L working group with a similar membership.
 - 4.2.1. Disadvantages:
 - Can't make decisions on behalf of the Council.
 - 4.2.2. Advantages:
 - Meetings can be less structured, facilitating a discussive environment.
 - There are fewer restrictions on meeting venue, timing, agendas, minutes and participants.
 - The meeting still needs a chair, but this can be agreed at the meeting.
 - Less cost and administration time

5. Suggested Ways of Working

- 5.1. Current information reports would come direct to the full Council. If these are prepared correctly there should be little need for questions or discussion. These would include:
 - 5.1.1. Allotments (The Allotments Association would need to provide a written report).
 - 5.1.2. Footpaths: A comprehensive report already provided.
 - 5.1.3. Cemetery: A comprehensive report already provided.
 - 5.1.4. Tree Warden: Reports currently provided as necessary.
- 5.2. Proposals requiring Full Council decisions could be developed at the working group and provided to the full council for decision in the correct format.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. Full Council is asked to dissolve the E&L Committee and create a working group in its place with similar membership and meeting timings.