

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (5)	
	Date	7 October 2025	
	Document	Ref No	
	C&E Manager's Report	CE5/36	

Equals Card Payments (C&E Minute 130, 09.04.24)

Since the last scheduled meeting, the C&E Manager's Equals card has been used for the following purchases:

- two spare cupboard keys £13.98;
- display stand for Town Council stall at village fair £69 (£57.50+£11.50 VAT);
- sweets for Town Council/Junior Council stand at the village fair £16.70;
- postage – return of faulty padlock under guarantee £4.05;
- trundle wheel (for measuring allotments) £82.99 (£69.16+£13.83 VAT);
- ranger service gardening tools £57.44 (£47.87+£9.57 VAT);
- fabric for Christmas event £5.98;
- magnets for new noticeboards £26.81 (£22.34+£4.47 VAT)
- additional magnets for new noticeboards £26.81 (£22.34+£4.47 VAT)

Village Fair

The Town Council stall at the village fair was well received. Two Junior Councillors were in attendance and Cllrs Adderley, Jones, Swaffer and Wastell helped with set up and running the stall on the day. The three games proved popular and we will look at the possibility of purchasing another two for next year so that we have enough to rotate on different years and ensure variety. We will also look at purchasing a reusable Neston Town Council banner to attach to the front of the gazebo. The Community Engagement Officer made all the pre-event arrangements and attended on the day to supervise the Junior Councillors – salary to be met from account code 4371 (youth engagement).

Professor Clarkson Environment Award

The 2025 awards have been presented by Mrs Pam Clarkson and Cllr Griffiths to four Year 6 pupils, all of whom were nominated by Head Teachers. Details of the award and recipients will be included in the Town Council's 25/26 Annual Report.

Junior Council

Contact has been made with all four primary schools about electing new junior councillors. The Community Engagement Officer has sought feedback from the parents of the retiring junior councillors and this will be taken into account when deciding on a programme for 25/26. It was noted by parents that the experience had increased the self-confidence of those involved.

Junior Council will be represented at the Remembrance Day service for the first time this year with the children laying a wreath at the war memorial.

Ranger Service Budget

Some gardening tools were purchased to remove a tree that had fallen over the pavement in Brook Street. As it was fairly small and officers were concerned about the immediate safety implications, some basic tools were purchased to remove the obstruction as quickly as possible (see Equals card payments). These tools will be useful for other tasks, including at allotment sites.

Allotments

Since the last meeting 10 tenants have had their tenancies confirmed following end of probationary period inspections, one probationary period extension has been granted and three tenants have failed the probationary period inspection resulting in termination of tenancy in all cases. One notice to improve has also been issued.

A perimeter tree at the Marshlands Road site requires attention and the work has been scheduled for mid-October at a cost of £150 (authorised under delegated authority – minute 123c, 13.02.24).

Marsh Dredging (C&E minute 93b, 05.12.23)

The Quayside dredging works which had to be postponed last year due to the wet conditions on the marshes, have now been completed. Following monitoring by Dr Enevoldson and site meetings with RSPB, the focus was on joining up and deepening small pools in the area in front of The Harp Inn.

Christmas Lights

Replacement lights for the Parkgate tree and a replacement star for the High Street tree have been ordered (C&E minute 11, 10.06.25).

The delayed SSE invoice for Christmas 2024 electricity has now been received. Christmas lights electricity consumption for 2024 was £366.71.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager