



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (5)
<i>Time & Date</i>	6pm Tuesday 7 October 2025
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

Present: Cllrs Marple (Chair), Adderley, Griffiths, David Ruscoe, Swaffer and Wastell

In attendance: A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager) and Cllr Halford

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

32 Public Participation

There were no comments from members of the public.

33 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair informed members that officers had requested deferment of agenda item 47 and its associated part two items until the next scheduled meeting.

34 Declarations of Interest

David Ruscoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 38a as he is treasurer of Neston Village Fair Committee.

35 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 19.09.25 as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes.

36 Community & Environment Manager's Report

The Committee received the Community & Environment Manager's report.

The C&E Manager's Equals card had been used for several items of expenditure:

- cupboard keys £13.98
- display stand £57.50+VAT
- village Fair stall supplies £16.70
- postage £4.05
- allotment/gardening equipment £117.03+VAT
- Christmas event supplies £5.98
- noticeboard magnets £44.68+VAT.

It was reported that perimeter tree works at Marshlands allotment site had been authorised under delegated authority at a cost of £150.

It was confirmed that the agreed marsh dredging (joining up and deepening small pools in the area in front the Harp Inn) had been completed at the end of September at a cost of £4,850+VAT.

Chair's initials and date:

37 Committee Budgets

- a The month six Committee budget and the current earmarked reserves were received.
- b **RESOLVED** to confirm payment of £450 from earmarked reserve 339 (Remembrance) to meet the full cost of the 2025 Remembrance Sunday road closure.
- c The Committee considered priorities to be included in the budget request for the next financial year.

It was decided not replace the Ness noticeboard during 25/26.

Due to rising road closure costs, it was decided to increase the Remembrance Sunday budget to £1,500.

It was decided that the title of account code 4363 should be amended to read Community Events/Donations.

- d **RESOLVED** to delete codes 4361 and 4362 from 1 April 2026 and consolidate these budgets within account code 4363.

38 Community Event Donations

- a Neston Village Fair 2025

RESOLVED to approve a breakdown of expenditure for the donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee. Having declared an interest, Cllr David Ruscoe took no part in discussion of this item and refrained from voting.

- b West Vale Park Family Fun Day 2025

Cllr Wastell declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 38b as he is a member of the Friends of West Vale Park Committee. Cllr Wastell also declared that he had received a small sum from Friends of West Vale Park as reimbursement of petrol costs incurred during preparations for the 2025 event.

RESOLVED to approve a breakdown of expenditure for the donation of £1,000 to Friends of West Vale Park. Having declared an interest, Cllr Wastell took no part in discussion of this item and refrained from voting.

- c **RESOLVED** that financial support for future Ladies Day road closure schemes would be considered annually as part of the community event donations process and, if approved, the agreed sum would be paid to Neston Female Society as a community event donation.

39 Community Grants

- a **RESOLVED** to update Neston Town Council's Grants Policy to include submission deadline of 31 March and 30 September for all grants programmes. It was agreed that the Grants Policy should be reviewed again in October 2026.

- b Friends of Marshlands Eco Park (Purchase and Installation of a Noticeboard)

It was agreed to defer consideration of this application until the applicant is able to provide written confirmation of permission to install a noticeboard and is also able to confirm the exact location for installation.

Chair's initials and date:

- c Grant Application from NCYC (Purchase of a Water Heater for Neston Civic Hall)

RESOLVED to award a grant of £500 to NCYC for the purchase of a water heater for Neston Civic Hall.

- d Amber Button (Creative Crafts for Wellbeing Workshops)

RESOLVED to refuse a grant request of £2,345 for the provision of creative crafts for wellbeing workshops.

- e NCYC (Community Social Prescribing Service)

Vote: five in favour and one against.

RESOLVED to provide a grant of £1,250 to NCYC to support a social prescribing service.

- f Neston Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday)

RESOLVED to provide a grant of £500 to Neston Royal British Legion to provide a Scottish pipe band for the annual Remembrance Sunday parade.

- g Neston Samba Pirates (Neston Future Leaders Project)

RESOLVED to provide a grant of £2,000 to Neston Samba Pirates for the Neston Future Leaders Project.

- h Neston Samba Pirates (Christmas Event Workshops)

RESOLVED to provide a grant of £500 to Neston Samba Pirates for Christmas lights event preparation workshops.

40 Planning Application

Woodend, The Parade, Parkgate CH64 6RN

The Committee chose not to submit a comment for planning application 25/02434/FUL (replacement dwelling and associated landscaping).

41 Marsh Working Group

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Cllr Davies to the Marsh Working Group for the remainder of the current council year.

42 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee received notes from the meeting held on 14.08.25.

43 Remembrance Sunday

Cllrs Wastell and Swaffer agreed to act as stewards during the Remembrance Sunday road closure on 9 November. Cllr Adderley also to attend if available on the day.

44 Telephone Kiosk Refurbishment

Little Neston Kiosks (Royal Oak & Landseer Avenue)

RESOLVED that all necessary arrangements should be made to transport and

Chair's initials and date:

restore the two Little Neston telephone kiosks on previously agreed terms (as confirmed in C&E minute 8b, 10.06.25).

Parkgate Kiosk (Mostyn Square)

The Chair confirmed that Parkgate Society had agreed to make a contribution of £3,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the Parkgate telephone kiosk, but some members were of the opinion that the Parkgate Society should meet all costs, with the Town Council making no financial contribution. Members had differing recollections of whether any information relating to the kiosk's current condition and estimated repair costs had been provided to the Annual Meeting of the Council and there followed an animated debate about the value of retaining decommissioned kiosks, with some members of the opinion that they had no worth and others believing that they were an important and valued part of our heritage and culture. An impasse was reached and it was therefore agreed that the matter should be referred to Council for consideration and decision.

45 Christmas Event

- a The C&E Manager provided an update on preparation for the Christmas event to be held on 29 November, confirming that activities would be held in three venues throughout the course of the afternoon, culminating in the switch-on at 5.30pm.

- b Christmas Tree Festival Risk Assessment

The C&E Manager recommended that "property damage" be replaced by "damage to building".

It was suggested that an addition be made to the risk assessment stating the need for a dynamic risk assessment responding to on the day events.

RESOLVED to approve the Christmas Tree Festival risk assessment as amended.

Risk Assessment for Christmas Lights Event at The Cross

RESOLVED to approve the Christmas Lights Event risk assessment.

46 Junior Council

RESOLVED that an annual amount of £300 be provided for expenditure relating to the Junior Council and that delegated authority be provided to officers to make purchases up to this maximum in each financial year from budget 4371 (youth engagement).

47 Civic Pride Project

Consideration of agenda item 47 was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

48 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on 25.11.25 at 6pm.

49 Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exclusion of the press and public as all part two items were deferred.

Chair's initials and date:

PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

50 Contract for Painting of Town Centre Finger/Lamp Posts and Metalwork

Consideration of agenda item 50 was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

51 Contract for Refurbishment of Town Hall Windows and Doors

Consideration of agenda item 51 was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed _____ Date _____