



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (9)
<i>Time & Date</i>	6pm Tuesday 3 February 2026
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

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

In attendance: A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager), CWaC Cllr Barker

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

83 Public Participation

There were no comments from members of the public.

84 Apologies for Absence

The Committee received apologies from Cllr Griffiths (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reason for absence. The absence of Cllr Halford was noted.

85 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ruscoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 89c on the grounds of living in the vicinity.

Cllr Wastell declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 91b on the grounds of being a member of Friends of West Vale Park.

Cllr Ruscoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 91b on the grounds of being the Treasurer of Neston Village Fair Committee.

Agenda item 91 was brought forward by common consent.

91 Community Event Donations

- a Ladies Day 2025 entertainment: **RESOLVED** to approve a breakdown of expenditure for the donation of £1,500. It was noted that there had been an underspend of £279.42 which had not been returned.
- b The Committee discussed options for supporting annual community events during the financial year 26/27 as per the Community Events Policy and **RESOLVED** to:
 - offer a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee in support of the 2026 village fair subject to C&E Committee approval of a costed project outline;
 - offer a donation of £3,000 to Neston Female Society for the provision of entertainment, first aid and a traffic management scheme for the 2026 Ladies Day parade subject to C&E approval of a costed project outline. The offer consisted of £2,000 for traffic management and £1,000 for entertainment and first aid provision. The entertainment/first aid offer was reduced to reflect both the 2025 underspend and the fact that the underspend had not been returned). Members requested that it should be emphasised to Neston Female Society that any underspend above £50 must be returned as per the Community Event Donations Policy;

Chair's initials and date:

- offer a donation of £2,000 to Friends of West Vale Park in support of the 2026 West Vale Park Family Fun Day subject to C&E Committee approval of a costed project outline;
- assign a maximum of £1,000 to cover publicity costs for the spring 2027 Neston Music Festival (publicity to be undertaken in the 26/27 financial year);
- assign a maximum budget of £9,000 for 2026 Christmas events;
- contribute £500 to support events in Neston Library as part of the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge.

CWaC Cllr Barker left the meeting.

86 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 16.12.25. The Chair signed the minutes.

87 Community & Environment Manager's Report

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

Equals Card Expenditure/Refunds

Costs associated with the Christmas lights switch-on event/Christmas tree festival totalling £292.06.

Travel tickets for Junior Council visit to Parliament £365.43.

Unused tubs of grotto sweets returned - £23 refund.

Christmas Lights (C&E Minute 70, 25.11.25)

Analogue lamp post timers purchased at a cost of £599.25+VAT.

Christmas Event (C&E Minute 85c, 04.02.25)

The total cost of the Christmas lights switch-on event and associated activities was £6,986.81 against an allocated budget of £9,000.

88 Committee Budgets

- The Committee considered the month nine budget and current earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED to rename account code 4371 "Youth Engagement".

- RESOLVED** to rename account code 4217 "NTC Community Space Initiatives".
- RESOLVED** to approve the final cost of £5,000+VAT for the delayed dredging works (originally approved on 06.08.24, minute 21) from account code 4230/EMR 325.
- RESOLVED** to streamline C&E earmarked reserves by combining EMR 321 (mosquito monitoring) and EMR 325 (de-silting).
- RESOLVED** that any end of year underspend should be added to earmarked reserves.

Chair's initials and date:

89 Planning Applications

a The Paddock, Lees Lane, Little Neston CH64 7TH

The Committee reviewed planning application 25/03821/FUL (demolition of existing dwelling, construction of a single-storey detached dwelling and a detached garage together with associated landscaping works) and decided not to submit a comment.

b Far Hills, Woodfall Lane, Little Neston CH64 4BT

The Committee reviewed planning application 25/03974/FUL (extensions and alterations to existing dwelling to include a two-storey rear extension, single-storey side extension, single-storey front infill extension, front porch, rebuilding of existing lean-to, ground and first floor side extension to replace existing attached garage to provide ancillary living accommodation. Rear covered patio/outdoor area, widening front driveway with a detached single-storey garage/carport outbuilding and associated landscaping works) and decided not to submit a comment.

c Oaktree, Liverpool Road, Neston CH64 3RQ

The Committee reviewed planning application 25/03935/FUL (construction of a replacement dwelling and associated works to facilitate the use) and **RESOLVED** to submit the following comment to the Planning Authority:

The proposed development is significantly larger than, and not in keeping with, adjacent properties and previous applications for similar proposals in the immediate area have been refused. Neston Town Council notes that the bat survey report, whilst useful, could be deemed ambiguous, and prior to the commencement of any demolition work the Town Council would like specific evidence that bats have ceased to roost in this property.

d Mapleoak Cattery, Chester High Road, Neston CH64 3TH

The Committee reviewed planning application 25/04027/OUT (outline application with all matters reserved for a customer self-build dwelling) and **RESOLVED** to submit the following comment to the Planning Authority:

Neston Town Council supports self-build developments in the right place and will have a keen interest in seeing the detailed planning application. However, the Town Council currently has grave concerns about access and the increase in vehicular traffic for any development on this particular site.

90 Allotment Rates

a It was noted that allotment rent would rise by the previously agreed 3% from 1 April 2026.

b **RESOLVED** that the allotment rent would increase by 5% from 1 April 2027. Members requested that the actual monetary increase, as well as the percentage, be included in the notification sent to tenants.

Agenda item 91 was considered earlier following item 85.

Chair's initials and date:

92 Junior Council

RESOLVED to approve travel costs of £365.43 from account code 4371 (youth engagement) for the Junior Council visit to Parliament.

93 Proposed Upgrade to Existing Radio Base Station Installation at 47 Gorston's Lane, Little Neston CH64 4EU

The Committee considered pre-application information and decided not to submit a comment to Cornerstone Telecommunications/Clarke Telecom.

94 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on 14.04.26 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed _____ Date _____