



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Community &amp; Environment Committee (11)</b>
<i>Time &amp; Date</i>	<b>6pm Tuesday 14 April 2026</b>
<i>Place</i>	<b>Neston Town Hall</b>
<i>Document</i>	<b>Minutes</b>

**Present:** Cllrs Marple (Chair), Griffiths, Halford, David Ruscoe and Swaffer

**In attendance:** A Duncan (C&E Manager)

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

### **102 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

### **103 Apologies for Absence**

The Committee received apologies for absence from Cllr Adderley (personal) and Cllr Wastell (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence.

### **104 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ruscoe declared non-pecuniary interests in items 109d, 111a and 113 on the grounds of being the Treasurer of both Theatre4all and Neston Village Fair Committee.

### **105 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 31.03.26. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **106 Community & Environment Manager's Report**

Expenditure since the previous scheduled meeting:

£103.32	Equals card payments (costs associated with the Junior Council visit to Parliament £97.53; Town Hall front door tester paint £4.79)
£271.28	Electricity supply for Christmas lights 2025
£850	Neston Music Festival publicity materials
£2,050	Painting of metalwork at the front of the Town Hall and also the four town centre fingerpost signs

It was confirmed that a contribution of £1,500 had been received from Groundwork towards the cost of fingerpost refurbishment.

### **107 Committee Budgets**

The month 12 C&E budget and the current earmarked reserves were considered.

Chair's initials and date:

## 108 Defibrillator Funding

It was noted that purchase of any new defibrillators or accessories for existing defibrillators would be funded from account code 4360. In addition, it was agreed to investigate options for installation of bleed control packs at key points with cost to be met from account code 4360.

The C&E Manager was asked to research Bernard's Law and report back any potential implications for management of the Town Hall.

## 109 Grant Applications

- a **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £1,000 to 1<sup>st</sup> Ness Scout Group for equipment replacement and repair.
- b **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £2,500 to Little Actors Theatre Company for the Little Actors Season 2026-27.

Cllr Ruscoe refrained from discussing or voting on item 109b as he felt it would not be appropriate given that he was involved with another drama-related group that had also submitted a grant application (item 109d).

- c **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £2,242.50 to 2375 (Neston) Air Cadets Association for adventure training equipment (climbing).
- d **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £2,300 to Theatre4all to fund the purchase of a PA system and set hire.

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Cllr Ruscoe refrained from voting.

- e **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £650 to 1<sup>st</sup> Ness Guides for purchase of a gazebo.
- f **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £2,500 to Neston Pirate Samba in support of the "Pirates on Tour" project.

## 110 Grant Variation Requests

- a **RESOLVED** to approve a request from Neston Swimming Club for a project extension to 30 April 2027.

**RESOLVED** to approve interim accounts totalling £885.

- b **RESOLVED** to approve a request from Community Yarn Crafts to vary the grant awarded on 10.06.25 by using £100 for the cost of room hire.

## 111 Community Event Donations

- a Neston Village Fair 2026

The Committee considered a costed project outline and **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £1,700 to Neston Village Fair Committee for the Neston Village Fair 2026.

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Cllr Ruscoe did not take part in the discussion of this agenda item and refrained from voting.

Chair's initials and date:

b West Vale Park Family Fun Day 2026

The Committee considered a costed project outline and **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £2,000 to Friends of West Vale Park for the West Vale Park Family Fun Day 2026.

c Ladies Day 2026

The Committee considered a costed project outline and **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £2,800 to Neston Female Society for Ladies Day 2026 (£1,000 for entertainment/first aid and £1,800 for a traffic management scheme).

**112 Marsh Working Group**

- a The 2025 mosquito monitoring report was received.
- b The Committee received notes of the Marsh Working Group meeting held on 13.02.26.
- c **RESOLVED** to implement the Marsh Working Group recommendation to obtain quotations for both de-silting work at the Donkey Stand flash and the creation of a new pool.

**113 Neston Village Fair 2026 – Town Council Stall**

- a **RESOLVED** that there should be a Neston Town Council stall at the Village Fair on 04.07.26.

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Cllr Ruscoe did not take part in the discussion of this agenda item and refrained from voting.

- b
  - Cllr Swaffer volunteered to help with set up/removal and transportation of equipment. It was agreed to also invite Cllrs Wastell and Jones to help.
  - It was agreed to invite Cllr Adderley to be the DBS-checked volunteer to support the Junior Council at the event.
- c It was agreed that additional games would be needed for the Neston Town Council stall.

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to officers to purchase additional games to a maximum value of £500+VAT and delivery (account code 4301).

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Cllr Ruscoe did not take part in the discussion of this agenda item and refrained from voting.

**114 Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to hold an additional C&E Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 May at 5pm.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_