



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (12)
<i>Time & Date</i>	5pm Tuesday 12 May 2026
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

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

In attendance: A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager)

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

115 Public Participation

There were no comments from members of the public.

116 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Swaffer (personal), Cllr Adderley (personal) and Cllr Halford (business).

117 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

118 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 14.04.26. The Chair signed the minutes.

119 Community & Environment Manager's Report

It was noted that there had been one Equals card payment of £12.31+VAT for Junior Council Ladies Day sashes.

Further to minute 108 (C&E 14.04.26), the C&E Manager informed the Committee that the Council's Health and Safety Consultant had advised that there was currently no requirement for public buildings to hold adrenaline auto-injectors such as EpiPens.

It was noted that a new allotment administration system had been implemented successfully for the 2026 online tenancy renewal.

120 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee received notes of the Neston Looking Better Group meeting held on 26.03.26.

121 Christmas 2026

The Committee received a report on Christmas lighting replacement and Christmas celebrations.

Christmas Lights

It was noted that officers were currently meeting with potential contractors to discuss options for a new Christmas lighting scheme and that an extra C&E meeting would be held in the summer to consider quotations.

Chair's initials and date:

Christmas Event

Councillors noted that, following the Council resolution not to replace the Assets and Events Manager role in 2018, it had been decided that the Town Council no longer had the staffing resources necessary to directly manage large events. Given this earlier decision, it was agreed that current staff resources were not sufficient to continue planning and managing a large-scale Christmas lights switch-on event and that changes would need to be made for 2026 to avoid incurring significant additional staff hours and an unsustainable burden of work.

Alternative options were considered, including moving the switch-on to Market Square which would negate the need for road closures but would significantly increase costs in terms of purchase and installation of an additional tree and decorations for Market Square along with any costs resulting from the risk assessment. Given that there was now a full complement of councillors, it was felt that it should be possible to guarantee more councillor commitment to take responsibility for some aspects of pre-event organisation as well as offering support at the event itself.

It was decided to recommend to Council that:

- the 2026 switch-on be moved to Market Square;
- Market Square be decorated with a tree and other decorations;
- musical entertainment be provided on Market Square before the switch-on by a brass band or similar;
- the front area of the Town Hall (old post office and reception) be utilised for a grotto during the afternoon of the event;
- Neston Samba to lead Father Christmas and elves from the grotto, around the side of the Town Hall and into Market Square to help with the countdown and switch-on;
- NCYC be offered the opportunity to provide a film etc during the afternoon at the Civic Hall;
- community groups and/or churches might wish to carry out activities to coincide with the event which the Town Council could advertise;
- in order to make the above suggestion a viable option, councillors would need to be willing to commit to taking responsibility for areas of pre-event preparation, perhaps working in pairs/teams etc.

122 Allotments

a Allotment Site Water Testing

RESOLVED to approve professional legionella risk assessment/water analysis sampling at a maximum cost of £450+VAT per site. The C&E Manager confirmed that it should be possible to source a contractor at less than the maximum cost approved.

b Perimeter Maintenance

RESOLVED to provide delegated authority to officers to arrange for the Town Council's greening contractor to remove a dead tree on the perimeter of the Parkgate allotment site with the cost being met from account code 4180 (allotment expenditure) and its associated earmarked reserve. Councillors

Chair's initials and date:

requested that officers be mindful of the environmental benefits of leaving dead trees in place and only to arrange removal should there be any safety concerns.

123 Greening Contract

- a The Committee considered report CE12/123 relating to the condition of the Bushell Fountain and the parish church planters and also the need for replacement shrubs at West Vale.
- b **RESOLVED** that the Council's appointed greening contractor should undertake refurbishment work to the Bushell Fountain planters:
- £6,360+VAT for dismantling the existing planters and replacing with eight composite planters;
 - £500+VAT contingency;
 - £120+VAT (approximately) to add four "Neston Town Council" plaques.
- Cost to be met from earmarked reserve 322 (floral maintenance).
- c **RESOLVED** that the Council's appointed greening contractor should remove the six existing parish church planters and replace with four composite planters at a cost of £575+VAT per planter and approximately £30+VAT per "Provided by Neston Town Council" plaque (four plaques in total).
- Cost to be met from earmarked reserve 322 (floral maintenance).
- d **RESOLVED** that the Council's appointed greening contractor should supply and plant new lavender shrubs to the noticeboard area by the West Vale shops at a cost of £200+VAT.
- Cost to be met from earmarked reserve 322 (floral maintenance).

124 Bunting

RESOLVED that bunting would not be installed in the town centre in summer 2026.

125 Grit Boxes

The Committee considered correspondence from Mostyn House Freehold Management Company about grit boxes. It was decided that no additional grit boxes were required by the Town Council at the present time.

126 Telephone Kiosks (Little Neston)

- a It was noted that provision of a new electricity supply to install a defibrillator in the Landseer/Raeburn kiosk had proved prohibitively expensive. It was agreed that the outside wall of the Neston Clinic on Mellock Lane would be a suitable alternative location for a defibrillator.
- RESOLVED** to delegate authority to officers to liaise with Neston Clinic and arrange purchase/installation of a defibrillator at this location with the cost being met from account code 4360 (Community Grants).
- b **RESOLVED** that the transoms for both kiosks should read "Community Box".

Chair's initials and date:

- c **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to officers to arrange haulage for the return of both kiosks and also to arrange securing of both kiosks to the existing concrete footings. Cost to be met from account code 4208 (Environmental Improvements) and its associated EMR.

127 Civic Pride Project

- a A progress report was received and it was noted that window and door restoration work was scheduled to begin on 18.05.26.

The C&E Manager was asked to liaise with the Market & Town Hall Committee Chair and investigate further possible community-focused improvement options to be discussed at a future C&E meeting.

- b **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to officers to arrange the construction and installation of two metal planter restraints to two front Town Hall window ledges at a maximum cost of £600+VAT from account code 4217 (NTC Community Space Initiatives).

128 Planning Application

Parkgate Nurseries, Boathouse Lane, Parkgate CH64 6RD

The Committee reviewed planning application 26/01309/REM: application for all outstanding reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline permission under 19/03423/OUT (outline application with all matters reserved for development of residential units - revised description). It was decided not to submit a comment.

129 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19.05.26.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Signed _____ Date _____