



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment Committee (2)
<i>Time & Date</i>	6pm Tuesday 11 August 2026
<i>Place</i>	Neston Town Hall
<i>Document</i>	Minutes

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

In attendance: A Duncan (C&E Manager), Cllr Adderley and 10 residents

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

12 Public Participation

Residents spoke in favour of the Town Council continuing to install bunting in the town centre throughout the summer period, citing its historical significance and its importance in creating a distinct market town identity.

13 Apologies for Absence

The Committee received apologies from Cllrs Dignam-Gill (business) and Swaffer (personal) and **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence.

14 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

15 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 09.06.26. The Chair signed the minutes.

16 Community & Environment Manager's Report

The Committee received the Community & Environment Manager's report and noted several items of expenditure.

Allotments

Padlock for Marshlands allotment site standpipe: £17.88+VAT.

Legionella risk assessments and water testing at all three allotment sites: £475+VAT.

Junior Council – Account Code 4301 (Community Engagement)

Prizes for Junior Council games stall at Neston Village Fair: £9.90.

Civic Pride Project – EMR 343 (NTC Community Space Initiatives)

Restoration of Town Hall ground floor front windows and doors completed on 23.06.26: £2,012.50+VAT deposit paid 27.01.26 and remaining balance of £6,037.50+VAT paid 30.06.26.

Replacement tools/batteries: £179.99.

Heavy-duty ground bolt for old post office front door: £40+VAT.

New signs above the Town Hall front doors installed on 19.06.26: £440+VAT.

Chair's initials and date:

17 Greening Task & Finish Group

- a Notes of the Greening Task & Finish Group meeting held on 29.06.26 were considered.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve without amendment the draft contract specification as detailed in paper CE2/17b.

RESOLVED to approve without amendment the draft process/timescale for seeking quotations and appointing a contractor.

18 Christmas Lights Task & Finish Group

Notes of the Christmas Lights Task & Finish Group meeting held on 29.06.26 were considered. It was confirmed that officers were seeking necessary permissions for additional anchor bolt points on the High Street and that the C&E Manager had met with CWaC Cllr Barker as requested.

19 Christmas Event Task & Finish Group

Notes of the Christmas Event Task & Finish Group meeting held on 30.06.26 were considered.

It was reported that Cllrs Dignam-Gill and Nikki Ruscoe were in the process of engaging with the community to agree an event programme and to establish a constituted "Christmas in Neston" group of volunteers to take responsibility for organising future Christmas events.

20 Community Event Donations

- a **RESOLVED** to provide a community event donation of £3,400 to Neston Female Society to support the Society's 2027 procession (road closure £2,200, medical cover £200, entertainment £1,000). Payment to be made in the 27/28 financial year.
- b It was decided to ask Full Council to decide upon all matters pertaining to the provision and installation of bunting.

21 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on 06.10.26 at 6pm. It was also noted that an extraordinary meeting would be called on 18.08.26 to consider two planning applications.

22 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item - paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

Ten residents left the meeting.

Chair's initials and date:

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

23 Christmas Lights

It was noted that four companies had been approached to quote for provision of a new lighting scheme for Neston and Parkgate and that four quotations had been received.

The C&E Manager confirmed that she had met with CWaC Cllr Barker to obtain his views regarding provision of lights in Parkgate.

Purchase

It was agreed to recommend to Council that Blachere Illuminations be appointed to provide a Christmas lighting scheme in Neston and Parkgate.

Neston High Street

Purchase 280m of 650W (three bulbs per metre warm white LED) strings of festoon lights for installation in a zig-zag pattern across High Street.

Purchase of 72 strings of lights to be installed vertically on 24 High Street lampposts (three strands per post).

Parkgate

Purchase 200m of 650W (three bulbs per metre warm white LED) strings of festoon lights for installation in a continuous line along The Parade.

Purchase of a green cone tree (approximately six metres/20 feet) for installation at the Donkey Stand. The C&E Committee requested officers to provide several options from which Council might select.

Officers were requested to obtain all necessary costings from Blachere Illuminations for consideration by Council.

Installation

It was agreed to recommend to Council that Continuity Electrical Contractors, CWaC's current Christmas lights installation contractor, should continue to be NTC's contractor for the installation of all Christmas decorations provided by the Town Council. In addition to the installation of newly purchased decorations, installation to include provision of a real tree at The Cross and the nine additional anchor points required to create the zig-zag effect on High Street. Installation also to include testing and connecting lights in the tree opposite the Royal Oak pub in Little Neston.

The Committee thanked the Community Engagement Officer for her efforts in obtaining permissions to install additional anchor bolt points.

24 Remembrance Sunday 2026: Traffic Management Scheme

It was noted that five companies had been approached to quote for provision of a traffic management scheme for the Remembrance Sunday commemorations and that three quotations had been received.

RESOLVED to appoint Core Highways to provide a traffic management scheme for the 2026 Remembrance Sunday commemorations at a cost of £1,685+VAT.

Chair's initials and date:

Officers were requested to:

- confirm the details of on the day signage,
- ensure the provision of additional traffic cones,
- confirm CAD provision and request the inclusion of volunteer points, and
- liaise with Cllr Dignam-Gill regarding other potential measures that might be required.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed _____ Date _____