



Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk

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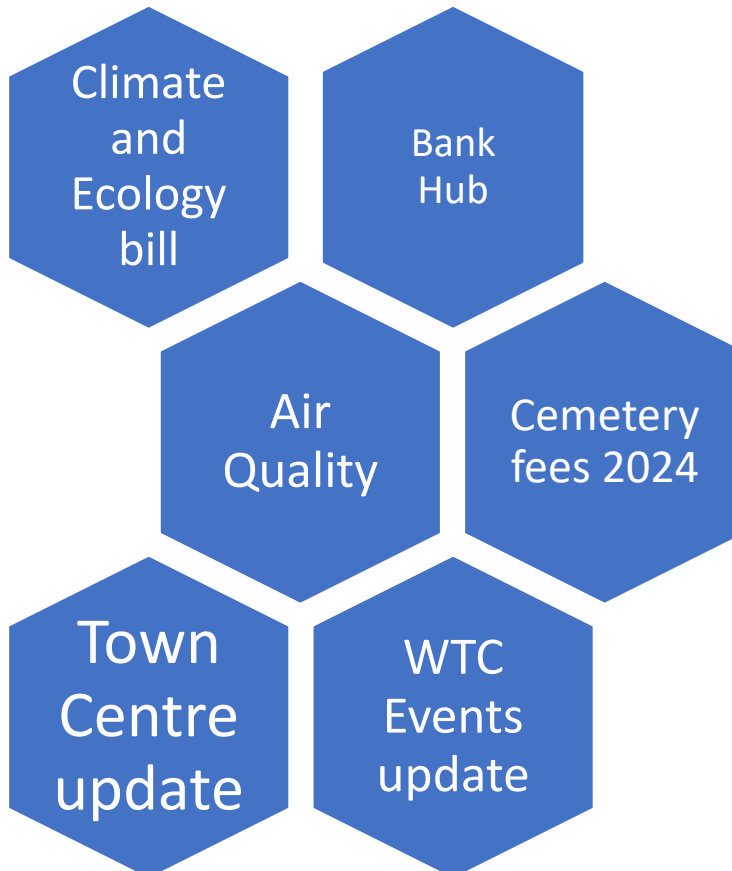
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

will meet on

Monday 20th November 2023

in the Council Chamber, Ware Priory, Ware, starting at 7.30pm

Items for discussion at the meeting include



All Members of the committee are summoned to attend the above meeting when the following business will be transacted:



Terry Philpott, Town Clerk
15th November 2023

This meeting is open to the Public and Press. The Council provides opportunity for members of the public to speak or ask questions at every meeting of the Council on any item on the agenda. Requests for items to be included on the agenda should be notified to the Clerk by the first Monday of the month.

A G E N D A

CE316: To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

CE317: To receive any Declarations of Interest and review any requests for Dispensation submitted to the Clerk.

CE318: Minutes from the previous meeting: to receive and sign the minutes of the last Community and Environment meeting held on 18th September 2023

CE319: Correspondence and Clerks report (TP 5mins)

- Twinning update
- Bier Proposal
- Museum Tourist information point

CE320: Melissa Whittaker, Community Engagement Manager for Cash Access

To receive a briefing related to the potential Ware Community Bank Hub.

CE321: Cemetery Fees for 2024 (TP 5 mins)

See attached schedule

Recommendation: To approve the Cemetery fees for 2024 with an average 5% increase.

CE322: Allotments and Cemetery Updates (DM 5 mins)

To note the report .

CE323: Events update. Report attached (RM 10mins)

To receive a report from the events manager.

CE324: Town Centre projects 2023/24 (SF 10mins)

To receive an update on projects.

CE325: Communications update 2023/24 (SF 10mins)

Digital Noticeboards

CE326: Climate and Ecology Bill (GH 5mins)

To review the request from zero hour and agree the councils response.

I'm writing on behalf of Zero Hour and seeking Ware Town Council support for the [Climate and Ecology Bill](#), which is due for its second reading on [24 November](#).

We recognise that parish and town councils are influential organisations, with links to the local community, regional charities and civic bodies. Ware Town Council is on the front line when it comes to protecting the places and communities we love and cherish.

We are writing to ask your council to join the [168 parish & town councils](#) across the UK to support the [Climate and Ecology Bill](#) and add your voice to those organisations calling for joined-up action that provides an adequate, commensurate response to the emergency of our natural world, our parks, villages and towns, our landscapes and wildlife.

We have a [draft motion](#), which you may find useful. If Ware Town Council is supportive, we are asking that after the motion is passed, Ware Town Council issues a press release that it has done so and writes and requests your MP(s) to also publicly support the CE Bill (*if they are one of the [130 that have already done so](#), please write and thank them for being supporters*).

The [Climate and Ecology Bill](#), if made law, would ensure that:

- The threat facing nature is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach.
- The Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement - 1.5°C.
- The UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume)-
- The government deliver a climate and nature assembly that is representative of the UK population, working directly with the Government and Parliament to ensure that all voices are heard and that no one is left behind.

More information about the CE Bill and supporting organisations can be found at <https://www.zerohour.uk/>; this [2-minute video](#) or a [15-minute presentation](#) may also prove useful.

CE327: Sele School consultation (GH 5mins)

To review the request from Sele School and agree the councils response.

The Sele School is carrying out a consultation on changing the number of students admitted to the school each year; if agreed the change will take place from the September 2025 intake. The reason for proposing this change is that our Governors and Senior Leadership believe that the current stated admission number is higher than the school's facilities can actually accommodate.

As a Town Council which falls within our Priority Area for admissions, I am writing to inform you of this proposal; please see the attached letter for full details of the proposed change and the reasons why this is felt to be necessary. I also attach the proposed Admission Arrangements for the 2025 - 2026 academic year and the Sixth Form Application Form for completeness.

All of this information can also be found on the school website [Admissions Consultation for 2025 - 2026](#) page by following the link.

We would like to hear your views. If you wish to comment, please do so no later than 11 December 2023 by emailing sbruton@sele.herts.sch.uk who will ensure that your comments are passed to Governors and to the Senior Leadership Team.

Hertfordshire County Council is also consulting and has asked us to bring this to the attention of our consultees.

Hertfordshire County Council's Consultation:

Hertfordshire County Council is also running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2025/26 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

HCC's proposed changes are:

1. To **reduce** the published admission number (PAN) at 4 community or voluntary controlled primary schools, however none of them are relevant to The Sele School.
2. If the proposal to close Hexton Primary School is approved, to amend the admission arrangements for Pirton Primary School to give increased priority to children from the parish of Hexton.
3. Amend the schemes of coordination to clarify The funding agreement process for new or proposed free schools, the process for informing the home LA of a school's decision to increase their PAN and to reduce the timescale for responding to allocations from 14 days to 7. This will allow more time for effective processing of responses prior to the next allocation round.

4. Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2025/26, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 11 December 2023. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2025 for more information and to respond online.

CE328: Air Quality survey (GH 5mins)

To review the request from Sele School and agree the councils response.

East Herts Council has now started a six-week consultation on its proposed Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) in fulfilment of its obligations to meet air quality objective limits under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

The new Air Quality Action Plan for East Hertfordshire will cover the period between 2024 and 2029 with the aim of improving air quality and reducing residents' exposure to air pollution. The action plan outlines our plan to effectively tackle air quality issues that are within our control. The plan also recognises that as a district council, we cannot achieve this alone and will rely on key stakeholders to achieve positive change.

The Air Quality Action Plan, together with details of how to respond to the consultation can be found on our website: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/environmental-health/air-quality-action-plan-consultation>

The consultation will run for six weeks and close at 09:00-hrs on the 13 December 2023.

CE329: Increased Hedge report (TP 5mins)

To note the report and location of an additional 130m of hedges within WTC properties.

Objective: As per the Eco report options were considered to increase the amount of hedge capacity within WTC properties.

Summary:

After speaking to the ground staff and having a walk around the Priory Grounds, Cemetery and Allotments we have decided on putting three hedges in to the grounds.

- 2 Hedges to be put into the priory grounds each approximately 40 meters long
- 1 Hedges to be put into the cemetery approximately 50 meters

The hedging will be made up of Blackthorn Hawthorn Dog Rose Field Maple Hornbeam Wild privet. No plants that are poisonous to animals and provide year round interest and diverse habitat for wildlife. They will also provide cover in the winter months.

Please see maps for the location of these Hedges.

Hedges will be planted over the winter months.

Cost is £500 for all three hedges

CE330: Cemetery rewilding (TP 5mins)

Objective: To create more wild areas to increase biodiversity inline with the Eco report.

Proposal: From the Grounds and Maintenance team to rewild an area in the old part of the cemetery. This has been marked pink on the attached map. The green part of the map is the paths that we are going to keep cut so the area can still be walked around. Also this will make it look like it is still being looked after and that we are leaving it for a reason. We already have signs up to say that we are leaving some area of the cemetery and will add some more on this section.

The grounds will be cut once a year by our contractors, the contractor has indicated this work will be approximately the same cost as the current contract.

CE332: Agenda items for next meeting

To review the following agenda items which are awaiting reports and agree if they are to be deferred to the next C&E meeting to be held on 12th February 2024, or closed with no further action.

Youth Engagement: To review the feedback from Cllr Mowbray and agree the next steps.

Recycling initiatives: To review the feedback from Cllr Bryant and Cllr Hill and agree the next steps.

- Biodegradable Takeaway packaging
- Disposable Vapes
- Recycle bins for High St
- Terracycle recycling boxes

Biodiversity initiatives:

To provide a series of social media posts related to Bio diversity (GH) to receive an update on the posts and public feedback.

Ware Film Festival: To review the feedback from Cllr Shaw.

Review of ESG policy

To review the ESG policy and agree an action plan to support the implementation over the next four years of the business plan.

The proposed next action is for the Councillors to review each policy and consider any actions, circulate to Councillors and Officers for review prior to consideration by the C&E committee on 20th

November 2023. Items agreed by the C&E will be added to the four year business plan and will subject to financial / resource scrutiny.

18th September 2023: Review by Councillors / Officers

16th October 2023: Drafts to be circulated for feedback from Councillors / Officers

13th November 2023: Final documents to be emailed to the Clerk for inclusion in the C&E agenda pack.

20th November 2023: C&E Committee approve draft proposals.

27th November 2023: Budget workshop including costed proposals

8th January 2024: Business plan for 2024 – 2028 approved / 25 approved.

8th January 2024: Budget / Precept for 2024/25 approved.

Environment

Biodiversity (C&E)

We will promote biodiversity in all areas controlled by WTC and those areas that we have influence. We will encourage wilded areas.

Carbon Footprint Reduction (F&P/C&E)

We will be carbon neutral by 2030, we will use carbon offsetting to cover any overage based on our targets and will include this in our financial budget.

Carbon Footprint Reduction in Our Communities (C&E)

We will lead by example by providing information and guidance to our communities to facilitate reduced carbon output.

Pollution (C&E)

We will encourage modes of transport that are less polluting. We will adhere to rules and guidelines to avoid polluting rivers and water courses.

Sustainable Transport (C&E)

We will be an advocate and work with others to provide access to safe, affordable safe accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, reducing pollution at an affordable cost.

Society

Wellbeing (All)

We will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of employees, ensuring practical support and the management of workload is properly resourced.

Community Engagement in Decision Making (C&E)

We will engage with the community in decisions that impact on them, to support the building of sustainable cohesive communities with improved outcomes, supported by our community engagement policy. We will recognize excellence in our communities by the Freedom of Ware awards and the annual town council award scheme.

Youth Engagement (C&E)

We aim to build meaningful relationships with young people aged 10-21 years old (or up to 25 years if they have physical or learning difficulties). We will do this through youth clubs, multi-sport sessions and in partnership with voluntary, statutory and community groups.

Healthy Living (C&E)

We will encourage a healthy lifestyle to our residents and colleagues, through a programme of communications and subsidised events.