



Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk

01920 460316

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3rd July 2023

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

MINUTES

Clr Hill (Chair) Bryant, Day, Mowbray, Scully, Shaw, J Taylor- Moran, K Taylor-Moran, Williams.

Officer present: Terry Philpott Town Clerk,
Via Zoom: Sarah Fenton, Donna Mansfield, Ros Montgomery.

Members of the public: x1

CE278: To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

- None received.

CE279: To receive any Declarations of Interest and review any requests for Dispensation submitted to the Clerk.

- None declared.

CE280: Minutes from the previous meeting: to receive and sign the minutes of the last Community and Environment meeting held on 22nd May 2023

Resolved: The minutes are an accurate record

CE281: Correspondence and Clerks report (TP 5mins)

- Presentation by Acorns Eco consultant scheduled for 27th July 2023

- Environmental Greenspace review commences 10th July 2023.

CE282: Bier Proposal (5 mins)

The proposal was reviewed and deferred awaiting further information.

- Budget requirement.
- Location

CE283: Allotments and Cemetery Updates (5 mins)

The report was received and noted.

Allotment Waitlist Report

There is currently a total of 43 people on the waiting list covering both sites.

Site	# on Waitlist	# of Vacant Plots
Crosspath Field (King George Road)	5	1
Warehouse Field (Widbury Hill)	38	11

There are 6 people on the Warehouse Field waiting list who have shared, over the last 6 months, they do not feel in a position to take on an allotment plot at this time. I will periodically contact them to see if their situation has changed and what their wishes are in regard to remaining on the waiting list. Them remaining on the waiting list does not impact those further down the list.

Allotment Inspections

Allotment inspections, across both sites, have been completed. There is a total of 194 plots. Each plot holder has received a copy of their individual inspection report. I have received positive feedback from a few plot holders in regard to the quality of the reports and the observations detailed. 60 of the plots will receive a follow up inspection after 2 months to see if the requested work or action has been undertaken. 25 of those 60 have been marked as 'poor' (16 at Warehouse Field and 9 at Crosspath) and if no work has been undertaken or conversations had with the Allotments Officer, further action will be taken regarding their tenancy.

Cemetery Topple Testing

Headstone topple testing is starting from 03.07.2023 at Ware Cemetery. Topple testing is required by Law to ensure all cemeteries are deemed safe. The work involves a headstone's stability being tested by hand to ensure it is not at risk of falling over. This previously became a statutory requirement following the death of a child visiting a London cemetery. If a headstone is considered unsafe measures are taken to minimise the risk and where necessary, the legal registered owner of the grave space is required to fix or replace the headstone. Due to its sensitive nature, prior to the work commencing, we will notify the Town via notices and social media.

CE284: Events update. Report attached (RM 10mins)

Thanks were expressed by Cllr Day to Ros Montgomery and team for a successful carnival and festival day.

The report was received and noted.

Monthly Cinema

The next programme of monthly films will run September-December. The programme will be available in late July.

Summer Concerts

The remaining dates in our programme of free concerts are:

02/07/23	Ware Brass
16/07/23	Abba Stars (5pm-7pm)
23/07/23	Lip Service Brass Band
13/08/23	Steve Young
28/08/23	George Croucher
10/09/23	Ware Brass
17/12/23	Carol Concert with Ware Brass tbc

Ware Festival

Ware Festival will begin with Carnival & the Town Fair on Saturday July 1st. There is a good line-up for the parade and 66 stalls have been booked for the Town Fair. There is a full programme of arena entertainment from 2pm along with some roving entertainment.

Riverside Real Ale Festival

This takes place Noon-11pm on Saturday 8th July across the Conservatory/Priory Hall and utilizing the back lawn. There will be 27 real ales and four ciders on offer. Outside on the lawn there will be a free World Percussion Workshop for children (or anyone else!) and the Pavement Artists competition will also take place on the back lawn. 400 tickets are on sale at £5 via Ticketsource. 100 tickets have sold as of today.

Rock in the Priory

This takes place on 30th July and will, as last year, equipment share with Exile Events who have exclusive use of the Priory on 29th July.

School holiday activities

Free tickets for our bookable holiday events will shortly go live.

Summer 2023 – under 12s

24/07/23	Mosaic mirrors craft workshop
01/08/23	Archery (open to all)
08/08/23	Doodlejam (open to all)
14/08/23	Pedal Cars
22/08/23	Water Wars (open to all)
29/08/23	Dodge Ball, Beat the Keeper, Hungry Hippos inflatable.

Summer 2023 – Age 12 upwards

09/08/23	Climbing wall
23/08/23	Zorb
29/08/23	Communal Mosaic Mural

October half term 2023

23/10/23	Halloween crafting – open to all ages
25/10/23	Lego workshop – younger children
26/10/23	Gaming – older children

Mayoral Events

Humanist Service: 8th October 3.30pm service in Fletcher's Lea – Reception Conservatory from 4.30pm

Mayor's Reception for volunteers: 7th December, Fletcher's Lea – 7pm-8.30pm

Quiz Night: 10th November, Fletcher's Lea

Mayor's Gala: 23rd March 2024, Fletcher's Lea

CE285: Twinning update (5 mins)

There have been two significant twinning events in 2023:

1. The annual Ware/Wülfrath Swimming club gala, now approaching fifty years, at Easter 2023 Ware were the guests of Wülfrath. In 2024 the German swimmers will be coming to Ware.
2. A group of eleven residents from Ware went to Cormeilles for a 'champagne' weekend.

Proposed **twinning activities for the rest of 2023:**

Friday 14 - Sunday 16 July

A group of 12 guests from Wülfrath are coming to Ware. They have a new twinning committee, the Chairman and some members of which do not know Ware. The weekend will be focussed around getting to know Ware. Some will be staying at the Premier Inn, and some are being hosted.

It is hoped that the mayor and/or other councillors will be able to meet them at some point - preferably when they arrive on Friday afternoon at the Priory.

The programme planned is as follows:

Saturday morning/afternoon - visit to Museum; guided walk around Ware; visit to Wodson Park (with refreshments).

Saturday evening - Place House with fish and chip supper

Sunday morning - tour round Scotts Grotto followed by Sunday lunch at the Star, Standon.

September - Laurence Méot, Chairman of Cormeilles TT Association, suggested this date for the two-yearly Renewal of the Pledge of Friendship between Ware and Cormeilles, due this year in Cormeilles. She checked with M Boedec (Mayor of Cormeilles) that this was ok. Therefore, an official invite can be expected in due course. In two year's, time (2025) this should be in Ware.

End of November/beginning of December - 10-day Wülfrath Christmas market. Not a civic event. Ware TT has taken a stall on the market for over 40 years. Any Town Councillor is, of course, very welcome to attend (and help out!).

CE286: Ware Film Festival (VS 10 mins)

Action: It was agreed that a working party would be formed to coordinate the work of the film festival to be held in October 2023.

RM, DS, GH agreed to be part of the group.

CE287: Town Centre projects 2023/24 (SF 10mins)

The report was received and noted.

Tudor Square Sunday Market

Remaining market dates for the year. The last market for the year will now be October.

- Sun 16th Jul
- Sun 17th Sep
- Sun 15th Oct

Shared Prosperity Funding

There has been no update to this since we submitted an outline to East Herts Council for this funding including projects that fit in with East Herts' four investment priorities for the fund. We included self-contained toilets sited on the Priory grounds, refurbishment of the current toilet block for an alternative use, more EV charging points and for a potential wayfinding/signage survey in the town centre.

Town Centre Spring Clean

We have booked this to take place after the Ware Festival events to tidy up the town during August with jet-washing and chewing gum removal for the High Street and surrounding streets. The war memorial will be steam cleaned with equipment to make sure the stonework is not damaged.

Traders Association Proposal

No update to this since we met with East Herts Officers and the Herts Growth Board Scheme in April. They are looking at putting Ware forward for support for a new trader's association in Ware.

Christmas 2023

We will be attending a conference in July in Stevenage held by Ringway & HCC who will be providing information on the requirements that should be met when attaching features like festive lighting and banners to street lighting columns in

CE288 : Communications update 2023/24 (SF 10mins)

The report was received and noted.

Ware Town Council Website & social media

For the past month (26/5 to 25/6) our website has had 16,601 views from 7,902 visitors.

Top pages visited in June:

1. Post Office Reopening 2. Ware Festival 3. Lido 4. What's On in Ware 5. June Monthly Newsletter
Views are up 21% on the previous month and there were 37% more visitors.

Top pages visited in May:

1. Priory Coronation Food Festival 2. Councillors & Staff page 3. Election Results 4. Monthly Newsletter 5. What's On in Ware

Across our social media pages (26/5 to 25/6) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for Ware Town Centre, Ware Town Council, Ware Priory & Ware Lido in the past month:

171 posts



149,859 impressions (the number of times the posts appeared on someone's screens)

130,534 users (the number of people who saw our posts)

4.39% engagement rate (average engagement rate)

21,492 Fans/Followers across networks

878 New Fans/Followers this month

<p>Post with highest reach</p>  <p>Ware Priory Lido Jun 05, 08:46</p> <p>We finally have an opening date of 14th June! 🎉 Next week we will be opening our doors (finally) for the 2023 season 🎟️ Tickets for sessions from 14th-20th June are now bookable on the website: www.warepriorylido.co.uk 📞 If you have any trouble using the website, please call the lido team on 01920485163 and they will be happy to help #summeriscoming #warelido #loveyourlido #ware #hertford #waretowncouncil</p> <p>20556 users</p>	<p>Post with highest engagement</p>  <p>Ware Town Council Jun 05, 08:10</p> <p>Check out the June Ware Town Council Monthly Newsletter & stay up to date... ✓ our Lido reopening date, the new Mayor of Ware's Charity for the year announced, Get your copy of the FULL Ware Festival Programme, What's on Ware & more. https://waretowncouncil.gov.uk/newsletter/ware-town-council-newsletter-june-2023/</p> <p>67.11% engagement rate</p>
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Facebook highlights

Brand Guidelines

A new branded letterhead is available for officers and councillors to use.

CE289: WTC Getting to Carbon Neutral by 2030 (GH/TP 20mins)

To discuss the next steps.

What constitutes WTC operations?

- Buildings
- Transport
- Energy / Utilities
- Procurement

Measuring Carbon emissions

- The base line?
- Annual measuring and reporting?

The Plan may include the following:

1. A review of current building stock and a view as to how they might be used in 2030.
2. What are the available technologies to deliver decarbonised heat and electric and which will be appropriate for WTC's buildings and sites (biomass, solar, ground/air source and potentially other emerging technologies such as hydrogen)?
3. A review of the Councils operations which create a carbon footprint leading to a detailed action plan to ensure these are carbon neutral by 2030.
4. A financial analysis of the costs to deliver the various schemes over the 7-year period.
5. The identification of potential grant funding to support the implementation.

Actions:

To investigate carbon offsetting scheme (TJP/GH)

To create and ESG policy (TJP)

Await feedback from Eco consultant meeting at the end of July.

Community engagement strategy to be defined (all).

CE290: WTC Youth Council (15 mins)

To discuss the next steps.

To review best practice from other councils with Youth Councils

- Corsham Youth Council (document included)
- <https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/chippenham-youth-council/>

Action: To consider the wider options for providing youth engagement (all)

CE291: Hedgehog Highway project (TP 5mins)

To consider the request to join over 100 Parishes & Towns Councils taking part in the Hedgehog Highway project.

Please read about the project here: <https://hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project>

The attached letter and the following video should also tell you all that you need to know: <https://fb.watch/jlixN7A3up/>

Action:

To provide a series of social media posts related to biodiversity (GH)

To consider activities for the 2024 events programme related to Biodiversity (RM)

CE292: Agenda items for next meeting

Resolved: To discuss the following agenda item after the exclusion of the press and public (commercial confidentiality)

CE293: Tourist Information point in the Museum (SF/TP 10mins)

The report was discussed with further research around the options to be determined by TP/SF.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed

Dated