

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Javaid Ashraf be appointed Vice-Chairman. Councillor Ashraf noted that he had not been able to discuss the appointment with his colleagues despite his efforts and therefore was pleased to be appointed Vice-Chairman by the committee.

5. MATTERS ARISING (IF ANY)

Clive Cohen, representing the London Wildlife Trust Barnet Group informed the committee that some insecticides carry a bee risk warning while neonicotinoids have been banned in France and Germany but are still permitted here for unknown reasons.

Brian Turner representing the Training Ship Broadsword, noted that a dragon boat race event would be very expensive. Without sponsorship it is unlikely that this event will take place.

It was also noted that litter was located in the Welsh Harp by York Park. Jenny Warren, Green Spaces Manager (Barnet) informed the committee that this was on the maintenance crew's work programme and would be dealt with before the end of February.

Brian Turner suggested that the Welsh Harp Clean up day should be attended by younger people and therefore should encourage local community groups to take part. Councillor Johnson added that the clean up day normally takes place during a school holiday and McDonald's have shown an interest in helping. Councillor Ashraf suggested that the community pay back scheme be used to help clean up the Welsh Harp.

RESOLVED –

- That the Committee consider possible solutions to secure sponsorship for the dragon boat race.
- That a clean up date for the Welsh Harp be arranged.

6. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT)

The Environmental Policy Officer, Leslie Williams, presented his report. He informed the Committee of the management works that have taken place to conserve the floodplain marshland.

The Committee were informed that Brent Officers were hoping to obtain a grant that would help fund the conservation of the acid grassland as well as other sites within the Welsh Harp.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Green Spaces Manager, Jenny Warren informed the committee that a specialist was to be used in order to inject Japanese Knotweed this year to prevent

its growth, which removes the issue regarding the timing of spraying treatments in relation to bees. .

- The committee also were informed of the Dollis Valley Green Walk (DVGW) Project. The London Borough of Barnet won the Mayor's priority parks project and was awarded £400,000. Treatment to invasive species and maintenance work to the brook will be carried out.
- Roy Beddard reported that a tree had fallen near the Bird Hyde and would need attention which the Green Spaces Manager noted.
- Neil Hider, representing the Environmental Agency, informed the committee that they are working with London Borough of Barnet on their DVGW Parks bid and have £10,000 which the Environment Agency are putting towards the Decoy Ponds (Brent Park) restoration project.
- Neil Hider also noted that he currently chairs the Brent Catchment Partnership which includes all the main stakeholders/landowners along the Brent Corridor to oversee a more strategic approach to management through the river corridor including the control and eradication of problem non-native invasive plant species. The Welsh Harp is included in this and Thames 21 organised two days Himalayan balsam pulling there this year, in total Thames 21 has spent 71 volunteer days carrying out improvements within the catchment.
- Sam Thomas, representing the British Waterways, stated that they are in the process of trying to arrange the use of Community payback to clear rubbish and fly tipping at various sites around the reservoir. British Waterways is also repairing the walk ways.
- Councillor John Hart asked representatives if they would like to give a presentation at the next meeting in order to inform the committee what their organisation does.
- Councillor John Hart updated the Committee with detail of the approved planning application of the Sailing Base.
- Paul Frost, Democratic Services noted that letters had been sent to organisations and representatives with poor attendance. He also noted that, Barnet Council Sports and Recreation is no longer in operation, and that the following organisations may no longer be functional:
 - Birchen Grove Resident Association
 - Princes Park Youth Football Club
 - Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
- Geoffrey Arkley from the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre informed the committee that the centre may close this academic year.

RESOLVED –

- For the committee to consider amending the membership of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee at the next meeting.

- For organisations to contact Paul Frost to advise that they would like to give a presentation at the next meeting to inform the committee what they do.

9. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 23 March 2011.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HART
Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm