



Matlock

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor 2024-2025 - Councillor Jason Knighton
Town Clerk – Simon Hosmer

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Matlock Town Council
held on Monday 7 April 2025 at 6:00pm in the Riber Room of the Imperial Rooms,
Matlock**

Present: In the chair: Cllr David Hughes (DH)
Councillors: Cllr Diane Fletcher (DF), Cllr Sue Burfoot (SB)
In attendance: Simon Hosmer, Town Clerk (SH)

Meeting begins at 18:00

ENVC 104/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Cllr Len Best – Away
Cllr Pat Wildgoose – in hospital*

**ENVC 105/2025 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND DECLARATION OF
INTERESTS**

None received

ENVC 106/2025 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

None received

**ENVC 107/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, POLICE,
COUNTY COUNCIL OR DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

No members of the public were present

ENVC 108/2025 MINUTES

Minutes of the 3 February 2025

DH: As only Cllr Burfoot was present last time, the minutes cannot be approved so will hold them off until the next meeting

ENVC 109/2025 ALLOTMENT UPDATE REPORT

SB: I didn't know Hazel had died.

DH: I am very sorry.

DF: This is an excellent proposal. I wondered whether we should suggest a review after a certain amount of time. If it isn't looked after it may become less than respectful.

DH: I am concerned that allotment holders are gradually reducing the amount of allotments available for people's use. The polytunnel at the bottom for example.
SH: The tunnel is located exactly where the Knotweed is so people can't use them as plots anymore.
SB: the allotment in question is number 40 and is easily visible from the entrance.
DH: Could a memorial garden be put somewhere else?
SH: Possibly as we have other places where a memorial garden could be.
DF: The plots are split aren't they so more opportunities come up.
SB: Who would look after it?
SH: WAFAS have made it clear they would attend to it.
DH: Could we limit this to a five year agreement and then review it?
SH: You could add that to the resolution
DH: Is this fully financed?
SH: Yes, there is no cost to the Town Council other than a n hour or so of our outdoor teams time.

Proposed: Cllr Diane Fletcher, seconded Cllr Sue Burfoot

Resolution: To approve the plot to be turned into a memorial garden but to recommend a review in 5 years time

Agreed unanimously

ENVC 110/2025 DCHC HOLIDAY REQUEST REPORT

SH: This charity was in the press late last year as they did not provide Children's holidays for 2025 for the first time in many years. I was told that we previously made a donation in 2014 and my records don't go that far back in the building. It was £700 apparently. I would have to go to the archive and check.
DH: This should come to Full Council I feel.
SB: Agreed.
DF: We could make a recommendation to Full Council. This seems like a good cause. Do we have funds available?
SH: There are reserves should Council choose to use them, yes.
DH: Have they spoken to District Councillors?
SH: I am sure they will.
DF: We could also publicise it.
DH: Hurst farm has the most deprivation of any ward in the Dales.
SB: As a Town Council we need to make sure that any monies we donate are spent with the children of our wards benefiting.
DH: Can we confirm that?
SH: I can ask that.
DH: We need to know what amount they want too perhaps. What there budget is and if they are getting money from other sources.

Proposed: Cllr David Hughes, seconded Cllr Sue Burfoot

Resolution: In principal the Committee approves this subject to questions of Matlock children benefiting and then taking the recommendation to Full Council once we know the answer.

Agreed unanimously

SH: There are 1,2 & 3 year deals and the longer you sign up for the cheaper the fixed costs.

SB: Why has this come to the Environment Committee?

SH: As our green policy determined that we purchase from a green provider. I might suggest we move it on to Corporate but with a recommendation from this Committee. This doesn't have 3 quotes and we should get them. Other suppliers will give green energy and we may not be getting the best value for the taxpayers money. This does represent a significant saving already on what we have been paying.

DH: We don't seem to be using too much electricity.

SH: Last year we spent £1000 more than we would do using the same amount of energy with this new quote.

DH: What about the heat pump idea.

SH: We can still do that. A 1 year sign up would save us £400 a year. The prices may go down and then signing up for 3 years would seem like a mistake.

DF: If this saves us 25% it would surely be an idea to recommend this to the Corporate Committee.

DH: That is over 3 years but knowing what the costs are for a fixed period of time seems like a good idea too as it will be easier to budget.

Proposed: Cllr David Hughes, seconded Cllr Sue Burfoot

Resolution: Ask the Clerk to get 2 more quotes and then recommend to the Corporate Committee a 3 year deal if we save at least 25% on current prices.

Agreed unanimously

DF: What is happening with the heat pump idea?

SH: I am waiting on news of funding as when the new government was elected last year it was suggested we hold off to see what new grants would be available. I don't have that information as yet.

DH: It was planned by the District Council that solar panels would be installed on the Arc leisure centre but the calculation was made incorrectly by the firm involved and the money is coming back to the District Council. These funds will be made available for green projects in the Dales and a grant may be available to the Town Council from this.

SB: Can we talk about the toilets for a moment in the Imperial Rooms. There was a party at the weekend there was no hot water and no hot air from the blower.

SH: Weirdly it's working again. We were made aware of the issue by our caretaker but the problem seems to have resolved itself. We will keep an eye on that.

DH: Is there a possibility of moving to a better coffee machine in these rooms?

SH: Not on the agenda I am afraid. I will get some more quotes before we go ahead with the boiler replacement.

DF: What about an instant hot water tap?

SH: I can see about that as well if Committee would like?

DH: Is it really instant?

SH: I would need to look at it in more detail and come back to you.

Proposed: Cllr Diane Fletcher, seconded Cllr David Hughes

Resolution: To ask the Clerk to look into an instant hot water tap instead of a water boiler for the Riber Room kitchen. To bring back quotes for that and complete 3 quotes for the hot water boiler replacement

Agreed unanimously

ENVC113/2025

COUNCIL PUBLICITY: Website, Social Media, Newsletters and news releases

None decided on

SB: Is it possible for the outdoor team to have a look around the planters we own and brighten them up where possible.

SH: I will ask Dave to do a review of all the planters.

DH: We will need to discuss the environment plan that I started on at a future meeting.

Meeting ends 18:50



Simon Hosmer
Town Clerk

CHAIRMAN:

DATED: