

.Minutes of the Environmental Committee
Held at the Civic Hall Lee Street, Uppermill
On Monday 21st January 2008

There were present Cllr. Mr. K. Hulme – Chairman
 Cllr. Mrs. A. Parry – Vice Chairman
 Cllrs. Mr. K Begley., Mr. R Franklin, Mr. B. Cullen & Mrs. A. McInnes,

- 58. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mr. A Hodgkiss
 Graham Gibbons (Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale)
 Richard Godley – Peak Park
 Doug Murray – Oldham Countryside Service

59. Minutes of last meeting – Matters arising

Heritage Festival. – The Clerk will contact Pennine Prospects to request that the Parish Council is involved in the future. The Council could organise or support Heritage walks in the area.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan – The Rights of Way working group have arranged two sessions on Tuesday 14th February and Saturday 16th February for all the volunteers that are going to undertake the footpath surveys.

Toilets – The Government are producing a paper on Community Toilet Schemes, February. The paper is likely to look at partially funding toilets in pubs and cafes etc. There is a vandalism problem unless the toilets are manned, need to consider other activities that would make them financially viable e.g. visitor centre and shop. The item will be discussed at the February meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Huddersfield Canal – The clerk will write to the Huddersfield Canal Society, it is thought that the current problem relates to a lack of water in the canal.

Scrubs over-growing pavements – there have been problems with the standard of the cutting back of shrubs in some areas. It is unclear at this stage whether the work is being undertaken by OMBC Direct Labour or by contractors. The issue will be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- 60. Himalayan Balsam** – Graham Gibbons has produced a detailed report on the project. Copies of the conclusion and recommendations were circulated to members along with a suggested programme for 2008 – 2009

The project had raised awareness of the problem and had enabled the council to involve children and work with the local communities. It was the first year of a programme of work. The detailed report will be presented to the February meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee. The budget to be discussed at the Council meeting includes an increase in the amount available for Environmental

works. Additional funding may be available from the Peak Park and other organisations including the Mersey Basin Project. We need to ensure that all the Community Associations are involved and that we obtain as much publicity as possible for the work.

61. **Recycling** – It was agreed that the Oldham MBC Recycling officer be invited to attend the February Finance & General Purposes meeting. One possible site for a Civic Amenity Site, similar to the Beal Lane site could be the Old Measurement Factory on Delph New Road. We need to identify the owner of the site to see if it is feasible.

Councillor Franklin has been informed that there are problems with debris left when the skips are emptied in Diggle, he will investigate further.

62. **Water Power** – New Mills Town Council are supporting a Community Hydro scheme, it was agreed that the Council should make a fact finding trip and invite members of Community Associations to attend with them.
63. **Rivers** – Councillor Begley informed the meeting of potential problems with the River Tame near Slackcote. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Environment Agency to inform them of our concerns of the state of the river bank and the impact that floods are having on the path of the river and whether there will be environmental damage as the meandering nature of the river changes.
64. **Swan Meadow** – concerns were raised that part of the Meadow is becoming a wet area due to damage to the drainage. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Tame Valley Country Park Wardens to highlight the concerns of the Parish Council.
65. **Date of next meeting** – it was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub Committee will be on Monday 18th February at 7.30 pm