

Queens Gardens Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2014

Present:

Cllrs. McPherson, Lancaster and Atkins

Apologies:

Cllr. Allan

Election of Chairman:

Cllr. Lancaster was elected Chairman

Declarations of interest:

None

Committee terms of reference and meeting arrangements:

It was agreed that the Committee's terms of reference should be:

(i) To be responsible for ensuring the effective day- to-day management and maintenance of the Gardens within the Council's agreed budget;

(ii) To establish the contractual arrangements with the Council's gardener, to guide and supervise his/her work and to have in place arrangements for remuneration for work undertaken;

(iii) To formulate and consult on plans for the future management and development of the Gardens; and

(iv) To consider proposals for the creation of a 'Friends of Queens Gardens' group.

It was agreed that formal Committee meetings should take place quarterly but that other meetings would be arranged as necessary to deal with matters as they arise (including informal meetings with the Council's gardener).

Routine management and maintenance programme:

It was noted that the Gardens presently appear somewhat neglected and it was agreed that a priority was to re-establish contact with the Council's gardener, Mike Hinson, with a view to seeking his agreement to undertake the immediate work required (grass cutting, clearing pathways and removing vegetation from gateways etc.).

Action – Cllr McPherson to contact Mike Hinson with a view to arranging a meeting as soon as possible.

Longer term plans:

It was agreed that work on a Conservation Management Plan (including a possible further bid for HLF funding) should be 'put on hold' for the time being and that the Council should consider directly funding a programme of repair works as soon as practicable. Such works, which hopefully would preclude more costly interventions in the future, should include the repair of damaged stone walls and displaced steps using traditional lime mortar methods and the professional stripping down and painting of wrought iron gates. The repair or replacement of selected benches could also be considered.

It was also agreed to develop proposals for the creation of a 'Friends of Queens Gardens' group for presentation to the Council in due course.

Date for next meeting:

November (date and time to be agreed)