

**SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
8 MARCH 2012**

Present: Cllrs D Staton, Barnett, Payne, P Staton, Watson

1. Apologies:

Cllr Hardwick

2. Award of Contracts

2.1 Hanging & Barrier Baskets (colour scheme)

An advert had been placed in the Ripley & Heanor for expressions of interest, 4 companies had expressed an interest:

Civic Pride	£3,699 inc v.a.t
Premier 1	£3,394.80 inc v.a.t.
*New Leaf	£3,595.00 inc v.a.t.
Plantscape	£3,594.00 inc v.a.t.

New Leaf has included 6 extra baskets for the hanging basket tree within their price. A discussion took place about the colour scheme.

RESOLVED:

To award the contract to New Leaf in view of the extra baskets and also the standard of work carried out last year. The colour scheme shall be red, white and blue.

2.2 Grounds Maintenance

The advert in the Ripley & Heanor had encompassed the Grounds Maintenance also, however, only one expression of interest and price had been submitted.

New Leaf	£8,599.00 inc v.a.t.
----------	----------------------

Although there has only been one price submitted, the committee were very happy with the contractor. This is a £200 increase on last year's price.

3. Western Avenue – waste ground

A holding response has been received from Futures Homescapes. The clerk would chase this again.

4. Memorial Garden – report on progress

Beech Hedging – the beech hedging has been completed.

Gazebo Planters – the gazebo planters are in place, and have been planted with two Russian vines, one Wisteria and one climbing Rose.

Childrens' Planted Area – the Clerk has contacted the school to see if they can plant this with the gardener just before Easter.

Sleeper Area – the Clerk has contacted the school to see if they can plant this, just before Easter.

Planted Bed

Work will commence on this during the Easter School break.

Compost Bin/Area – this will be in place soon.

Cllr Barnett informed the meeting of 'certain dogs' allegedly being allowed to foul the garden. She asked if a further sign could be put on the gate, 'Dogs Not Allowed except for Assistance Dogs'.

5. In Bloom Competitions

East Midlands In Bloom – the committee discussed this at length and in view of the ever changing parameters for the competition.

RESOLVED:

Not to enter the East Midlands In Bloom competition this year.

Swanwick In Bloom – the committee felt that due to the diminishing number of entries over the last few years, and the financial constraints being experienced currently.

RESOLVED:

Not to hold a Swanwick In Bloom competition this year.

6. Open Gardens

A discussion was held, and it was felt that due to the number of events being held because of the Olympics and the Jubilee, that this should not be 'put on' this year, but to be reviewed again next year.

7. Minster Way - Seat

The contractor would be chased up, regarding when this would be completed. The Chair thought that the wooden Bench in place now, should be tried out in The Garden on The Green.

The gardener would be removing the tree root just before work is to commence on the seat.

RESOLVED:

That the Bench should be re-sited to the Garden on The Green.

8. Christmas Lights

The clerk has contacted Ripley and Alfreton Town Council to get their views of their Christmas Lights contract. Some of Swanwick's lights are past their best, all are now four years old at least, these need to be removed from our lighting display, so will need to be replaced.

The Clerk and the Chair would come together to discuss improvements/extensions to the lighting display

The Chair asked that some subdued lighting for The Garden on The Green be preliminarily investigated.

The Clerk reported that a passer by had asked about removing the old fencing that was on The Garden on The Green, and would remove this on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk would arrange for this to be removed and 'weighed in'.

The Chair gave her thanks to all of the Environment Committee for their commitment and hard work.

Meeting Closed at 7.55pm