



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2020
AT 7:45PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS

Present:

Cllr Badham (Chair)
Cllr Toinko
Cllr Dann
Cllr Dodds
Cllr Earles
Cllr Lutley
Cllr Platt
Cllr Coleman

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Amenities Officer
Susan Eldred – Community Services Officer
Zoe Putwain – Community Services Assistant
Darren Bushby – Grounds Team Supervisor
Cllr Blazeby
Cllr Snape
Cllr Thompson
Resident

712 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

713 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None declared.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None declared.

714 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Badham advised Members that he had taken part in a Zoom meeting with Wendy Millgate from 4YP via Zoom. Councillor Badham had suggested Wendy and some of the young people who access 4YP attend a Community Services meeting in the future. Councillor Badham had expressed to Wendy that he felt doing a 'walk around' in Flitwick with 4YP would be beneficial.

715 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1 Member of the public joined the meeting.

716 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Dann raised that in a previous Community Services meeting he had spoken about the possibility of having electric charging points at the Rufus Centre for electric cars. Councillor Dann would like this matter not to be forgotten and feels the project could be easily out sourced and progressed.

Councillor Dann had questions and comments to raise regarding the paint exchange scheme but would raise these under agenda item 8d.

Councillor Toinko had a query from a resident regarding the opening of Play Areas but would raise these under agenda item 9c.

Councillor Platt thanked Jim Snooke for the Lockdown Car Show which took place on Sunday 2nd August. The event had received lots of positive feedback on social media and was well attended on the day.

717 MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held 7th July 2020.

All Members agreed the minutes were a true recording of the meeting held on 7th July 2020
(Vote - All in favour)

718 MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 7th July 2020.

Councillor Dann informed Members the Flag Flying working group had attended a meeting to discuss the Rufus Centre flag flying policy. A report would be presented at the next meeting.

Councillor Dann informed Members the Recycling working group had attended a meeting. At this time there was be only 2 Members on the Recycling working group, Councillor Dann invited any other Members who were interested to join the working group, Councillor Dodds and Councillor Earles put themselves forward.
The Recycling working group would be working on a proposal to bring to a future Community Services meeting.

Councillor Badham informed Member's the Public Art working group would be meeting soon. Information from the meeting would be reported back to the Community Services Committee.

Councillor Badham informed Member's the Section106 Monies working group would be meeting soon. Information from the meeting would be reported back to the Community Services Committee.

The Flitwick in Bloom working group, along with a member of the Grounds Team, Community Services team and an Anglia in Bloom representative were due to meet on Wednesday 5th August to discuss part in Flitwick in Bloom in 2021.

719 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Circus Request**

Members were asked to note that the Circus due to take place in September at the Millennium Park had been postponed due to COVID-19. Members were asked to consider the same request for September 2021.

It was **RECOMMENDED** for the Circus visit to be postponed to September 2021. (Vote: all in favour)

b. Tribute Nights

Members discussed the options to either postpone or cancel the Tribute Nights.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to cancel both the Little Mix and Frank Sinatra tribute nights. (Vote all in favour)

c. Outdoor Comedy Night

Councillor Dodds expressed concern with regard to cars stopping on the road to listen in on the Comedy Night and asked if this could be monitored. The Community Services Officer had not considered that this would be an issue but stated there would be security present during the event if needed.

The Community Services Officer advised the Outdoor Comedy Night would be held on the grassed area by the Wedding garden. This area has a building on each side to help limit sound to nearby houses. A Noise Management Plan had been completed by the Community Services Assistant and has been sent to CBC.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to accept the proposed Outdoor Comedy Night being held at the Rufus Centre on Saturday 12th September 2020. (Vote: 7 in favour, 1 against).

d. Skate Park Proposal from Cllr Toinko

Councillor Toinko informed Members that the graffiti at the Skate Park was looking tired and had some anti-social graffiti over the top. Councillor Toinko was keen for the Skate Park to be refreshed and suggested local volunteers get involved to repaint the Skate Park and tidy up the area.

Councillor Toinko asked the Ground Team Supervisor why the grass around the Skate Park was not cut, the Grounds Team Supervisor informed Members this was left long to stop litter blowing around the park. Councillor Toinko felt this could be another area where wildflowers could be planted, this would make the Skate Park look pretty as well as stopping litter.

Councillor Dodds felt it would be best to remove the paint that is already on the Skate Park before painting over it. Councillor Earles felt more bins were needed at the Skate Park and asked if this was something that could be looked into.

Councillor Coleman informed Members he had previously been involved with an Outreach Programme delivered by 4YP and suggested other Councillors attend a similar programme to speak to the young people about what they would like to see happen at the Skate Park. The Chairman advised that he discuss this with 4YP and report back to a future meeting.

(Action Cllr Badham)

Councillor Toinko agreed to investigate costs involved in repainting the Skate Park and will bring these to a future Community Services meeting.

(Action Cllr Toinko)

e. Wildflower Verges Proposal from Cllr Toinko

Councillor Toinko informed Members of a charity called Buglife. Buglife have published a 'wildlife corridor' map of England. Flitwick is shown on this map as sitting in the centre of a corridor. Councillor Toinko suggested to Members that the Council should promote the wildlife corridor by allowing flowers and seeds to set in suitable areas. This would reduce mowing these areas to twice a year and would allow for minimum maintenance. Councillor Toinko felt that the scheme would make Flitwick more wildlife friendly.

The Grounds Team Supervisor suggested using Steppingley Road ditch, this is landed owned by FTC and would be seen by many residents. Other suitable areas would need to be identified.
(Action Cllr Toinko/Amenities Officer)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

- 1) FTC is pleased to note that much of Flitwick lies within an area designated as a 'B-Line' wildlife corridor by the national charity Buglife and resolves to promote the growth of wildflowers within and around our town.
- 2) FTC calls on CBC to revise its mowing schedule to benefit wildlife and wildflowers in line with a 'cut and collect' approach of reduced mowing frequency of suitable verges and grassed areas, resulting in increased biodiversity and substantial cost savings.
- 3) FTC will help to communicate and promote these initiatives to residents, to assist with public understanding and support, including inviting volunteers to help maintain wildflower areas beyond those that CBC agree to support. (Vote: all in favour)

f. Ice Cream Van Permit

Due to COVID-19, the ice cream permit granted in February 2020 has not been used. Members to consider moving the permit to 2021 with conditions remaining the same. .

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the ice cream permit be transferred from March – October 2020 to March – October 2021. (Vote: 8 in favour)

g. Millennium Park Usage

The Town Council does not currently have a policy for the usage of the Millennium Park, it is suggested that this be referred to the PDRT committee for consideration.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the PDRT committee consider a policy for the usage of Millennium Park. (Vote: 8 in favour)

720 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Budget

To note the Community Services Budget – No Comments.

b. Community Services Report

No questions regarding the Community Services report were raised.

Councillor Dodds and Councillor Dann expressed an interest in joining the next Community Safety Zoom call. The Community Services Officer to inform Councillor Dodds and Councillor Dann of the details for the next Zoom meeting.

c. Grounds Team Report

Members noted the report produced by the Grounds Team Supervisor.

Councillor Dodds requested information in regards to a replacement fence at Manor Park. The Town Clerk confirmed he had received 3 quotes and the information would be supplied at the next Community Services meeting.

Councillor Dann advised that several comments and pictures of the War Memorial had been posted on social media. The Grounds Team Supervisor commented that the area had been weeded and new bedding plants had now been planted.

Councillor Toinko understood that a resident in Fir Tree Close was responsible for locking the park up in the evening and queried why this arrangement was in place. The Town Clerk advised that this arrangement should be withdrawn and the park should remain open in line with all other parks the Town Council maintain.

(Action: Amenities Officer)

Councillor Badham suggested the Communications and Marketing Officer prepares a statement to be used on social media informing the public as to why the play areas were not yet open. The Amenities Officer informed Members she is now in receipt of the inspection report although this would take time to process and for the work to be completed.

(Action: Communication and Marketing Officer)

Councillor Dann raised a concern about the amount of litter at Millennium Park in the morning, more so on a Saturday & Sunday. The Grounds Team Supervisor advised that a Grounds Team Member attends to Millennium Park to clear the litter on a Saturday & Sunday morning.

Councillor Dodds stated that FTC staff members should be conscious when talking to members of the public as this could lead to some miss communication with information being posted on social media. Councillor Dodds asked for this matter to be added to the next Corporate Services Committee agenda.

(Action: Deputy Town Clerk)

d Environmental Stewardship

Members noted that the Town Council will continue with the Environmental Stewardship Scheme following communication with the Community Services Members via email.

721 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise. Each Speaker will be allowed **(one) three-minute slot**.

The member of the Public did not wish to speak and left the meeting at this time.

722 EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed..

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

a Christmas Lights

Members discussed the information within the report.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the amount of £4,135.80 be transferred from The Buildings Maintenance General budget (4132) to the Christmas Lights Budget (1165) to cover the cost of additional safety measures for the Christmas Lights display. (Vote: 8 in favour)