



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2020
AT 7:45PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS

Present:

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

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Amenities Officer
Susan Eldred – Community Services Officer
Resident

723 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Coleman and the Groundsteam Supervisor.

724 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.

725 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that item 9d would be moved under items for consideration as item 8j.

726 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1 Member of the public joined the meeting.

727 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

728 MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held 4th August 2020.

Cllr Dann commented that minute number 720 referred to him commenting about Fir Tree Play Area however it was Cllr Toinko who made the comments.

All Members agreed the minutes were a true recording of the meeting held on 4th August 2020 (Vote - All in favour)

729 MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 4th August 2020.

The Chairman informed Members that he had attended a walkabout with 4YP along with the Deputy Mayor. The Chairman advised that the young people were very engaging and expressed their wishes for basketball hoops, more litter bins, enclosed shelter, outdoor gym equipment and lighting at the skate park.

730 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Metal Detecting Extension Request**

Cllr Earles asked if the Council were going to limit the amount of licences issued. Cllr Dann commented that this had been discussed previously and it was agreed that each request would be considered on its own merit.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to extend the Metal Detecting Licence to 27th December 2020.
(Vote: all in favour)

- b. **Flitwick in Bloom**

Cllr Toinko joined the meeting.

Members discussed the proposal within the report. Cllr Lutley felt that considering the amount of work required to participate in Flitwick in Bloom, the front garden competition was a good idea to start with.

The Chairman commented that he had spoken with somebody who takes part in the 'In Bloom' competition in another Town and was advised it could take up to 3 years to get fully set up.

Cllr Toinko was not in favour of a front garden competition and felt it was not the Town Council's business what people wish to do with their front gardens. Cllr Dodds disagreed with this comment and felt that particularly during lockdown, it was nice to walk around the Town and admire the efforts people had put into their gardens.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to hold a front garden competition, with the aim of building up to the 'In Bloom' competition over the coming years, if there was a level of interest from residents.
(Vote: 6 in favour, 1 against)

- c. **Christmas Market**

Cllr Dann asked if it would be possible to get 25 stalls to attend consecutively over the 8 weeks. The Community Services Officer advised that there does not necessarily have to be 25 stalls attend every week however the levels of interest so far had been positive.

Cllr Dodds suggested the Town Council have a stall each week for residents to discuss any issues or concerns they have around the Town.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to hold a Christmas Market on the Village Hall/Hub car park for 8 consecutive weeks from Sunday 1st November, with a maximum of 25 stalls. (Vote: all in favour)

d. **The Dew Pond**

Cllr Lutley asked if there was a risk of the residents obtaining adverse possession of the piece of land. The Town Clerk advised that this would not be possible as there would be an agreement in place to stop this.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council continue to allow the residents to maintain the small area of grass at the Dew Pond under a maintenance agreement. (Vote: 5 in favour, 2 abstentions)

e. **Manor Park Fencing**

Cllr Dodds asked that if when obtaining quotes for larger projects, a specification was provided to ensure the quotes were like for like. The Town Clerk advised that a specification was provided.

Cllr Thompson commented that at the last meeting it was understood that a member of the Groundsteam was a professional fencer and that a quote would be obtained for materials only. The Town Clerk advised that following further discussion with the Groundsteam, they felt that they could not provide such a good quality of work.

Cllr Toinko asked if all 3 quotes included the wood being responsibly sourced. The Town Clerk advised that this would need to be investigated further.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to use quote A to supply and erect fencing in various identified locations within Manor Park. (subject to investigation of responsibly sourced wood) (Vote: all in favour)

f. **Installation of Basketball Hoops**

Cllr Dann asked if it would be within budget to install a cage around the proposed area. The Chairman advised, having previously investigated costs, it would not be an option with the funds available at this time.

Cllr Toinko referenced the Water Fountains mentioned within the report, the Chairman advised that this was something that could be sourced from Section 106 monies and had been discussed at the Section 106 working party meeting.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Basketball Hoops and court markings be installed on the hardstanding area of the Millennium Park. (Vote: all in favour)

g. **Wildlife Corridors**

Cllr Thompson suggested signage to make residents aware of what is happening and to avoid people asking why the chosen areas had not been maintained. Cllr Lutley added that an article in Flitwick Papers to introduce the scheme would be beneficial.

Cllr Toinko asked if the suppliers of the seed were local. The Town Clerk advised that they were.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. The areas listed within the report were suitable for Wildlife Corridors
 2. Enlisting the wider communities help in establishing and assisting with the maintenance of the wildlife corridors.
 3. To obtain quotations in 2021/22
- (Vote: 7 in favour)

h. Letter from resident regarding Fir Tree Close Play Area

Cllr Toinko commented that he had been contacted by a resident regarding the opening and closing system of the park and felt it was not suitable. Cllr Dodds felt that the park should remain unlocked in line with the other parks owned by FTC.

Cllr Lutley commented that Fir Tree Close was different in comparison to other parks as it was surrounded by a high fence and situated in between 2 houses.

Cllr Earles felt that no member of the public should act as key holder to the parks.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk respond to the resident to state that the decision to leave the park open remains and to thank them for their assistance in the past. (Vote: all in favour)

i. Community Awards

Cllr Dann commented that there was no documentation available regarding the revised categories at this time however they would be presented at the next meeting. A decision was needed with regards to hand delivering the awards and congratulatory items for the winners and nominees of the 2020 awards.

It was agreed to discuss Community Awards at the next meeting.

j. Flag Flying Policy

Members noted the report from the Flag Flying working group. An amendment was made to proposal number 3 to include 'the union flag would fly every 5th year for VJ day'.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

2. FTC do not fly flags for which planning permission would be needed, due to the burden upon FTC staff and CBC in processing these requests. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

3. That from the list published, FTC fly the Union Flag on the real and official birthdays of the Queen, the birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh and Remembrance Day on an annual basis. Then, VE and VJ day every 5th year. Additionally, FTC fly the St George's Cross on St George's Day; That we review this position upon a Royal succession. (Vote: 6 in favour, 1 abstention)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

4. FTC flies the Union Flag in accordance with guidelines upon death of a Sovereign and any issued special commands. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

5. The default position is not to fly a flag. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

6. The Flitwick flag is used for purposes relating to the Carnival only. (Vote: 6 in favour, 1 abstention)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

7. FTC fly the Bedfordshire County Flag on November 28th. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

8. The Pride Flag is flown during Pride month of June. (Vote: all in favour)

731 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Budget

To note the Community Services Budget – No Comments.

b. Community Services Report

The Community Services Officer thanked the Inner Wheel for the £100 donation towards the Christmas Lights fund.

Cllr Dann commented that he would be attending a Remembrance Day meeting via Zoom to discuss final plans.

c. Grounds Team Report

Members noted the report produced by the Grounds Team Supervisor.

The Chairman advised that the refurbished signs looked wonderful and passed thanks onto the Groundsteam.

e. Public Art Working Group

Members noted the report from the Public Art Working Group. Cllr Dann asked if Barclays frontage had been identified as an option to install some form of public art. The Chairman commented that at this stage clarity was being sought as to funding available and locations would be discussed following this.

f. Section 106 Working Group

Members noted the report from the Section 106 working group.

732 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.

733 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.

Meeting closed at 21.00