



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020
AT 7:45PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS

Present:

Cllr Badham (Chair)
Cllr Toinko
Cllr Dann
Cllr Dodds
Cllr Earles
Cllr Lutley
Cllr Thompson
Cllr M Platt
Cllr A Snape
Cllr G Mackey
Cllr Blazeby

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

755. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

756. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (a)** Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr Mackey declared a pecuniary interest in item 8h, Cllr Badham declared a pecuniary interest in item 8c.
- (b)** Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.

757. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman congratulated both Members and staff for the response to school meal vouchers that were offered to residents during the October half term.

The Chairman commented that there would be 2 additional items added to the agenda, 8h – to consider a request for a grant application and 9c – to receive a verbal report from the Community Services Officer.

758. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1 Member of public joined the meeting to discuss item 8h. The resident wished to support the grant application to fund a memorial within Flitwick to two airmen who lost their lives in February 1945 due to an aircraft crash on Valley Farm. The Resident felt it had been a long time without the pilots being recognised and felt a memorial would be a nice addition to the Town.

759. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Thompson had received comments from a resident regarding supporting people who were struggling with Christmas approaching and asked if Members or staff were aware of any community projects available that the Town Council could promote. The Community Services Officer advised that she was unaware of any local projects but could investigate this matter.

Cllr Mackey advised that the Community Lifeline Board were due to meet in the coming days to discuss what response they were going to give considering the second national lockdown. Cllr Mackey asked if Members would support the Councils involvement in the Community Lifeline initiative again.

760. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held 6th October 2020.

Cllr Dann advised of a typo within minute number 738.

All Members agreed the minutes were a true recording of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 (Vote - 8 in favour, 1 abstention)

761. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 6th October 2020.

The Chairman apologised for not meeting with the Deputy Town Clerk to discuss the action log and advised he would make arrangements to do so.

762. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Community Awards**

Cllr Dodds asked if the proposals presented within the report would have to change given the current situation with COVID-19. The Community Services Officer advised that this would have to be taken into consideration.

Members agreed to remove the diversity statement from the criteria document relating to the Local Hero award.

The Chairman agreed to add Community Awards to the agenda as a rolling item due to the continuous changes with COVID guidelines.

- b. **Grants Policy**

Cllr Blazeby commented that at a previous meeting it was resolved to hold 2 phases of grants throughout the year due to unspent money that could not be transferred to the following years grant fund.

The Town Clerk advised that the policy presented gave organisations the flexibility to apply for grants throughout the whole year rather than set periods of time. Cllr Toinko commented that 2 rounds would have meant that late grant requests would not have to be considered on an adhoc basis and the Council could be flexible if a grant application was urgent.

The Chairman felt that the policy gave the Council the flexibility to be able to fund organisations straight away rather than wait for the set time scales for 2 rounds.

Cllr Thompson felt that 2 rounds was a more structured approach and that organisations would pre plan for projects that would be applied for.

Cllr Dann proposed to adopt the Grants Policy, a vote took place, but it was not carried.

Cllr Lutley felt that the form within the policy was too complex for small organisations and felt it would discourage them from applying.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to defer the Grant Policy to the December meeting once further feedback from Members was given to the Town Clerk. (Vote: 6 in favour, 3 abstentions)

c. Christmas Market

The Community Services Officer advised that due to the second national lockdown the Christmas Market had been cancelled. If restrictions were lifted on 2nd December as hoped the remaining two dates 13th and 20th December could still go ahead.

Cllr Badham asked if all exhibitors had to have the track and trace QR code displayed on their stall. The Community Services Officer advised that this was a requirement of CBC.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Christmas Market goes ahead on 13th and 20th December subject to government guidance. (Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention)

d. Drone Flying Request

Cllr Toinko raised various concerns relating to the request and suggested it would be more suitable on agricultural land rather than a public open space. Cllr Dodds suggested the Country Park as an alternative site.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to deny the request for the Drone Flying within Manor Park. (Vote: 7 in favour, 2 abstentions)

e. School Meal Holiday Provision

The Chairman commented how delighted he was that the Council had provided free school meals to residents of Flitwick. The Town Clerk advised that a total of 57 meals were supplied during the half term and a local resident had donated Halloween boxes to give out. A member of staff had also donated money to the cause.

The Chairman commented that it was uncertain at this time if families would be entitled to free school meals during the Christmas period and suggested the Council come up with a proposal to help families in need.

Cllr Mackey suggested the Council write to CBC with a notion to extend the vouchers throughout the Christmas Holidays.

The Chairman suggested a working party be set up to discuss this further. Cllrs Badham, Earles, Lutley, Thompson, Toinko and Snape agreed to be a part of this. the Community Services Officer offered to take part in this group also.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a working party be set up to discuss School Meal Holiday Provision. (Vote: all in favour)

f. Greensand Champions

Cllr Toinko felt the Council should help to promote the Greensand Champion Scheme through Flitwick Papers, Social Media and notice boards.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to help promote the launch of the Greensand Champions Scheme via social media, Flitwick Papers and notice boards. (Vote: all in favour)

g. Wildflowers Report

Members noted the report previously circulated by Cllr Toinko. Cllr Thompson expressed an interest in joining the Working Group.

h. Community Grant Scheme

Cllr Mackey gave Members a brief overview of the application. Members discussed the application and raised various concerns including the amount of money requested and suggested a possible alternative of a bench or plaque. Members were unsure if the memorial within the application was a piece of art or a memorial as the application as not clear.

Cllr Earles asked why an application was being made at this time and not in previous years. Cllr Mackey explained that a member of the public approached him regarding the matter, and he took it upon himself to support the application.

It was commented that the pilots were already remembered within their hometowns therefore their lives were already being commemorated.

The proposal for a £10k grant for a memorial statue was declined however Cllr Dann thanked Cllr Mackey for bringing the application to the Council and asked that a dialogue continue going forward.

763. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Budget

Members noted the budget.

b. 4YP Quarterly Report

Members noted the report. The Chairman expressed what a fantastic job 4YP are doing within the community.

c. Community Services Officer Oral Report

The Community Services Officer advised that the regular activities had been cancelled due to the second national lockdown. A meeting had taken place with regards to the Remembrance Parade and it had been agreed the service would be live streamed at 2.00pm.

Cllr Snape raised concerns with some comments that had been put on Focus on Flitwick encouraging residents to still meet at the cenotaph on remembrance Sunday. Cllr Mackey advised that new government guidance allowed households to attend memorial services that had been officially organised so long as social distancing was adhered to.

768. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

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**.

769. 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 9.23pm.