



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2021
AT 7:30PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS

Present:

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

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

Ian Cook – Step Free Access

781. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

782. 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.

783. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman commented that the new planters outside Barclays bank were a great improvement to the area.

The Chairman raised that several residents had been disappointed with the outcome of the CBC discretionary support scheme that was being offered to local businesses. The Chairman would raise this matter with the Ward Councillors at the next Town Council meeting.

The Chairman advised that the Community Awards should have been an agenda item and would be raised under matters arising.

784. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Ian Cook, Step Free Access representative, attended the meeting to discuss the grant application that was submitted to the Town Council in 2020. Mr Cook was disappointed that there had been no communication advising the outcome of the application. The Chairman

apologised on behalf of the Town Council and put it down to an administrative error. Mr Cook also wished to know reasons for refusing the grant application. The Chairman advised that whilst the Town Council fully supported the Step Free Access initiative, the application was not clear on what exactly the funds would be used for and that the scheme was a nationwide project not specifically for Flitwick only.

Cllr Dodds commented that a Network Rail representative was due to attend the Planning meeting to give an update on the Step Free Access at Flitwick Station and invited Mr Cook along.

785. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Snape advised Members that he had met a resident at the Millennium Park who had various concerns surrounding anti-social behaviour and the management of the Park. Cllr Snape suggested inviting PC Dagley to the next meeting to find out what was being done to tackle these issues. Cllr Dodds advised that youths had also been congregating within Tesco car park. The Chairman suggested inviting the Police Crime Commissioner to the next meeting to discuss these matters.

Action: ESM

Cllr Dodds advised Members that he had attended a training workshop about reporting crime in Towns and Parishes which was delivered by CBC. This training was available for other Members if they wished to attend.

Cllr Toinko advised that CBC were advertising a tree planting grant scheme and wondered if this was something the Town Council should apply for. The Chairman suggested this could be something the wildflower working group investigate. The Town Clerk felt that this was an officer matter, and they would produce a list of required trees and apply to the scheme.

Action: ESM

Cllr Toinko asked if a meeting had been set up for the Youth Committee working group.

Cllr Dodds commented that the hedge along Steppingley Road had been cut and asked if the side adjacent to the houses was due to be cut. The Environmental Services Manager agreed to clarify whose responsibility this was.

The Chairman commented that 3 domestic Christmas Trees has been placed on the roundabout in Flitwick causing the WW2 Tommy Figure to be pulled over in the high winds. The Chairman expressed disappointment with this action and felt whoever had done this was irresponsible.

786. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held 1st December 2020.

Cllr Dann advised of several typos within the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 1st December 2020 (Vote - All in favour)

787. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 1st December 2020.

Cllr Thompson asked what Members had agreed to be part of the Youth Committee working group. The Community Services Manager agreed to investigate this and report back.

788. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. The Shed

The Environmental Services Manager advised that there was currently a substantial waiting list for both allotment sites however due to renewal of agreements, several plots would become available. Members had a lengthy discussion surrounding the age range of the proposed group and agreed it would be a better option to run the Men's Club and The Shed as 2 separate groups.

Members agreed that this group should be delayed slightly due to the national lockdown recently imposed, this would also give Members a better idea of allotment plots available.

b. Foodie Friday's

Cllr Dodds felt that the event would be better held on the hardstanding area of the Millennium Park. Cllr Thompson asked if the company would be charged in line with the new hire structure of the park. The Community Services Manager advised that this would not be the case as the event would be run jointly with the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Flitwick Foodie Fest on the last Sunday of the Month from April – September 2021, with the additional December date using the Hub Car Park. (vote – all in favour)

c. Burial Space

Cllr Dann commented that he had spoken with a local resident regarding the area within the burial ground for Muslim burials however they were unaware this was available. He advised that Muslims should be buried as soon as possible within 24 hours, and that they should preferably face Mecca.

Cllr Dann also advised that local funeral director Neville's believed Flitwick Town Council were the only small Town within Central Bedfordshire to have a designated Muslim Area. The Environmental Services Manager added that the Town Council had also consulted with the Luton Council of Mosques.

It was **RESOLVED** to utilise the allocated Muslim Burial space within the Burial Ground for additional grave space. (vote – all in favour)

d. Proposed Budget 2021/2022

Cllr Lutley had several questions that she wished to raise.

Cllr Toinko commented that the allotments generated a healthy surplus every year and wondered if this could be used to make some repairs on the spine roads at both sites.

Action: ESM

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget 2021/2022. (vote – all in favour)

e. Manor Park Expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** to accept an expenditure of approximately £3600 - £4800 to match fund the condition assessments to replace the main entrance gate piers and associated metal railings and repair the ornamental bridge. (vote – all in favour)

789. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Budget

Members noted the budget.

b. Community Core Services – Health & Safety (Overspend)

Members noted the overspend.

c. Community Services Report

Members noted the report. Cllr Thompson had received positive feedback from the Santa's Grotto event and praised the team for their efforts. Cllr Thompson also asked if any charities had been chosen as part of the Flitwick Festive Fun competition. The Community Services Manager advised that she was still waiting for the charity choices.

d. Scheme of Delegation

Noted.

790. 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**.

No questions or comments.

791. 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 20:39pm