



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 4th MAY 2021
AT 7:30 PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present:

Cllr Badham (Chairman)
Cllr Toinko
Cllr Dann
Cllr Earles
Cllr Dodds
Cllr Lutley
Cllr Thompson
Cllr Platt

Cllr Andy Snape - Deputy Town Mayor
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager
2 Residents

825. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman advised that Cllr Mackey was hoping to attend but was unable to due to personal reasons.

826. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

827. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked for the committee for their work over the past year.

828. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mark Rankine attended the meeting to ask members for their support in erecting the Airmen Memorial within the current War Memorial on Station Square. Mr Rankine advised Members that the campaign for the Memorial had been a fantastic success.

Cllr Toinko asked if an inscription was included within the Memorial. Mr Rankine advised that names and dates were included.

Cllr Snape commented that there had been uncertainty on exact locations of the accident and asked if Mr Rankine could clarify this.

The Chairman asked if alternative sites had been considered. Mr Rankine commented that several sites had been considered.

829. INVITED SPEAKER

None.

830. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Toinko had been contacted by a resident who reported anti-social driving at the junction of Eagle Drive/Temple Way. Cllr Dodds agreed to raise this at the upcoming Highways Meeting. Cllr Dodds commented that there were several areas within Flitwick where green space was being used inappropriately.

Cllr Dann commented that files within SharePoint still needed to be rearranged. Cllr Toinko asked for supporting papers to be sent as separate documents.

Action: DTC/ESO

831. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held 6th April 2021.

All members agreed the minutes were a true recording of the meeting held on 6th April 2021. (vote – all in favour)

832. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 6th April 2021.

The Community Services Manager asked Members to consider allowing the organiser of the Car Show 2021 use of the Hub Car park. Members discussed the request and were happy to accept the request providing necessary documentation was presented to the Community Services Manager in advance of the event.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the organiser of the Car Show 2021 use of the Hub Car Park subject to necessary documentation being presented in advance of the event.
(Vote – 8 in favour, 1 against)

833. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairman proposed moving agenda item 9i to the first item for consideration.
(Vote – all in favour)

i. Airmen Memorial

Members considered the proposal. Cllr Dodds praised the work carried out by Cllr Mackey and proposed to install the Memorial within the War Memorial. The Chairman asked for questions from Members before a proposal was made.

Cllr Toinko questioned the appropriateness of modifying the Memorial in the centre of the Town and felt that the new Memorial would not be in keeping with the current design. Cllr Toinko also suggested getting the War Memorial listed for future preservation.

Cllr Snape advised Members that he had discussed locations with Cllr Mackey and there were several options including placing the memorial outside of the War Memorial on the

area outside of Barclays Bank. Cllr Snape indicated that FTC would be willing to further discussion with the landowner and possibly assist with funding.

Cllr Dann commented that there would be lots of rules and regulations in terms of listing the War Memorial and felt that siting the Memorial at the Rufus Centre would be far more fitting considering the location of the accident.

The Chairman had contacted the War Memorials Trust who advised that extreme caution should be taken if additional Memorials were to be added to the current War Memorial, ensuring it would not detract what is already there. They also advised that plans and details should be submitted to their organisation for comment.

The Chairman also raised concern that there was no definitive answer as to where the crash took place and whose responsibility it would be for ongoing maintenance of the Memorial.

The Chairman commented that National Heritage appeared very favourable of War Memorials becoming listed.

Cllr Thompson and Cllr Platt were in favour of the Memorial but felt that the War Memorial was not an appropriate location.

The Chairman asked if any members would like to propose the war memorial item as put forward by Councillor Mackay and no proposal was made.

Members agreed that Cllr Mackey should discuss this further with the Town Clerk and look at different locations.

a. Country Park Feasibility Study

The Environmental Services Manager advised Members that CBC were only responsible for the first part of the service road leading to the sewerage site, the remaining part of the road was the responsibility of the sewerage site. CBC advised that securing the site would be the responsibility of the landowner. The Environmental Services Manager informed Members that the Public Realm Team had temporarily secured the site opposite Ruxox Farm.

Members considered the options within the feasibility study and made two recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Public Realm Team to prevent vehicular access to the Country Park site via the gate or ditch option funded by the rolling capital fund and preserving the rights of horses and cyclists on the bridleway. (Vote – all in favour)

It was **RESOLVED** to request Anglian Water install an access gate on the north east corner of the County Park site to secure access. Flitwick Town Council would offer to assist with funding this. (Vote- all in favour)

b. “Happy to Chat” Benches

The Chairman advised members of a scheme that had taken place in Gateshead to combat loneliness. The scheme involved putting up signage on several benches across the Town inviting people to chat with others who are lonely.

Cllr Toinko was in favour of the scheme but added that locations needed to be considered carefully. Cllr Thompson agreed that the benches needed to be spaced out across the Town.

It was **RESOLVED** to install signage on 6 benches across the Town for a trial period of 6 months to promote the Happy to Chat Bench scheme. (Vote – All in favour)

c. The Hub Refurbishment

Members considered the quotations within the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint quote A, £118.00 to carry out plastering works within the Hub. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint quote B, £1960.00 to replace carpets within the Hub. (Vote: all in favour)

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint quote B, £3656.00 to replace the windows and doors within the Hub. (Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention)

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint quote C, £4420.00 to carry out painting within the Hub. (Vote: all in favour)

d. Town Mayor Charity Fundraiser

Cllr Toinko felt that 100 copies of the calendar would not be adequate. The Community Services Manager advised that additional copies could be ordered if required.

It was **RESOLVED** to have a Community Calendar 2022 in support of the Town Mayors Charities allowing staff flexibility to increase the amount of calendars ordered. (Vote: all in favour)

e. Skate Competition

The Community Services Manager advised that this event was the young people's initiative and it had been requested that any money raised on the day could be put back into improving the Skatepark.

The Chairman asked what the budget was for the event and if it would be covered from the events budget. The Community Services Manager advised that the event would cost somewhere between £600-£800.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a Skate Competition on Millennium Park on Saturday 22nd August 2021 subject to COVID government guidelines. (Vote: all in favour)

f. Skate Park Graffiti

The Community Services Manager advised that section 106 public art money would be used to cover the cost of the project should the application be successful. Ward Councillors had also allocated some money from the Ward councillor Grant scheme.

Members were asked to consider allocating £1260.00 from the rolling capital fund should the S106 application be unsuccessful.

Cllr Dodds asked if the drainage would be completed at the same time as the graffiti. The Environmental Services Manager advised that this could be investigated.

Action: PD/ESO

Cllr Snape was in favour of the project but asked that 4YP logos were not painted on FTC property.

Cllr Earles commented that a few parents had asked for a smaller ramp for the younger children to use. The Environmental Services Manager advised that this would be considerably costly however it was something that could be included in a longer-term plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that should the application to section 106 Public Art fund be unsuccessful, £1,200 from the rolling capital fund would be used to provide graffiti at the skatepark. (Vote – all in favour)

g. Millennium Park Youth Shelter

Cllr Dodds asked if planning permission would be needed to install the shelter. The Environmental Services Manager commented that it was highly unlikely but would seek clarification from the company.

Members felt that additional bins would be useful within the area.

It was **RESOLVED** to install a youth shelter on Millennium Park and access £2950.00 from the rolling capital fund to complete the project. (Vote – all in favour)

h. Flitwick & District Good Neighbour Scheme

Cllr Thompson commented that the scheme was a valuable service to the community but had concern with the additional workload for the Community Services Manager and suggested additional members of the team be included in phone handling.

Cllr Snape had concern with the Community Services Manager agreeing to the request considering current workloads. The Community Services Manager agreed to try it on a trial basis.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the Community Services Manager to become a phone handler for Ampthill & Flitwick District Good Neighbour Scheme for 5 hours per weeks on a 3-month trial basis. (Vote: 8 in favour, 1 against)

834. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Environmental Update

Members noted the update.

b. Letter of support

Members noted the letter.

c. Community Services Manager Report

Members noted the report.

d. Budget

Members noted the budget. Cllr Thompson asked if the budget could include the rolling capital fund.

Action: Finance

835. 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**.

None.

836. 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 21.20