



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 1st JUNE 2021
AT 7:30 PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present:

Cllr Toinko (Chairman)
Cllr Dann
Cllr Lutley
Cllr Badham
Cllr Chacko
Cllr Platt
Cllr Earles

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk & Chief Executive (Virtual Access)
Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager
Darren Bushby – Public Realm Supervisor (Virtual Access)
Mike Thorn – Environmental Services Officer (Virtual Access)
Leisa Milne – Invited Speaker (Virtual Access)
Resident – 1 (Virtual Access)

848. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received & accepted for Cllr Thompson.

849. 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 – Cllr Toinko & Cllr Blazeby declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in agenda item 9e, The Library of Things.

850. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

851. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A resident raised concerns regarding the cattle grazing on Manor Park. The resident stated when a 'Change of Use' notice was received, it stated an alternative footpath would be provided, still allowing access to the paddocks for walkers, dog walkers and joggers. There may be additional guidance such as dogs must be kept on a lead while in the park.

The resident noted that the paddocks would have electric fencing, raising concerns for children using the park. It was felt an information fact sheet, regarding the cattle in Manor Park may help residents to understand and stop social media rumours.

Cllr Toinko informed the resident that she would receive an email from the Environmental Services Manager, addressing the issues raised.

The Environmental Services Manager added that Manor Park is part of a higher-level stewardship scheme, which requires the paddocks to be grazed. Information regarding this scheme had been shared on the Flitwick Town Council website and Facebook page.

852. INVITED SPEAKER

Leisa Milne was unable to share a Power Point presentation on the evening, this would be forwarded to all committee members the following day.

Leisa explained the concept of 'Library of Things' would help the community access expensive tools and other items they may not be able to afford or want cluttering up their homes. The 'Library of Things' would stock a range of items from tools, camping equipment and bikes, to smaller items such as puzzles, books and gardening tools.

Residents would be able to borrow items for a small fee, this would allow people to try out new hobbies, such as knitting or hire DIY tools to complete small home projects. All electrical items would be PAT tested annually and fully insured. The scheme could be large or small, depending on the number of items donated.

Additional services could be offered, such as a 'repair café' once a month. The café would be run by volunteers, helping residents to fix broken items.

Cllr Badham asked if there had ever been any problems with repair work being carried out by volunteers, Leisa was not aware of any but would look into this.

Cllr Snape asked how much space the scheme would need to store items. Cllr Toinko suggested the project would be flexible in scale to reflect the premises available and that something like a portion of the Tractor Store might be suitable, although understood this was not possible at this time. Members would look at possible venues, should FTC support the 'Library of Things'.

853. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Badham asked if the signs had been placed on the 'Happy to Chat' benches. The Environmental Services Manager advised the signs had been placed on the benches and a social media post would be going out the following day.

Cllr Snape asked when the power supply for the gates for Manor Park would be in place. The Environmental Services Manager advised the work was being carried out on 9th & 10th June.

854. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Community Services meeting held 24th May 2021.

The minutes are agreed as a true record of the meeting on Monday 24th May (Vote – All in Favour)

855. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Community Services Committee Meeting 24th May 2021.

None.

856. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Manor Park Hire Request

Members liked the idea of delivering 'Forest School' activities in Manor Park, educating adults & children in wildlife, environment, and the natural world.

Members would like the opportunity to ask questions about the delivery of Forest School and requested the organiser attends a Community Services Committee meeting to deliver a presentation and offer more information on how the programme would be delivered to residents.

b. Manor Park Electric Fencing

The Environmental Services Manager Informed Members that cattle grazing areas would normally have barbed wire around the top of the fencing. As a Council, this was not something we were able to install due to Health & Safety. Having electric fencing would add additional safety for cattle and Manor Park users.

The electric fencing would be solar powered with additional battery supply when needed. The batteries are similar to caravan leisure batteries.

Cllr Snape asked if a person would be hurt should they touch the fencing. The Environmental Services Manager stated the person would receive a small shock; the shock would not cause harm. Signage would be placed on the electric fencing to warn people it was live, there would not be a reason for people to touch the fencing.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept quote A for the supply of electric fencing at Manor Park. (Vote – All in favour)

c. Manor Park DRAFT PA2 Brief

Cllr Snape commented that the report was very long, residents may benefit from a brief summary of the report.

The Environmental Services Manager acknowledged the report was long but stated a detailed plan was needed if working towards reinstating the parklands back to its former state.

Cllr Snape asked if there were any plans to have community involvement within the development of Manor Park in line with the Feasibility Plan. The Environmental Services Manager stated that community involvement would be important in the delivery of the plan, at the correct time.

Cllr Toinko asked how long it would take to deliver the plan, The Environmental Services Manager hoped the plan would be complete by the end of 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Feasibility Study for Manor Park. (Vote – All in favour)

d. Youth Committee

Cllr Dann asked how the Youth Panel would be managed if oversubscribed. Cllr Toinko informed Members that after speaking with other councils, this is not something we felt would be an issue.

The Youth Panel would be run informally, with young people being able to join and leave at any time. The Youth Panel would select their own Chair and Minute taker and would be expected to report back to the Community Services Committee regularly.

It was **RESOLVED** to start promotions for the Flitwick Youth Panel, with the aim of forming a Youth Panel by mid-September 2021.

e. Library of Things

Cllr Chacko asked if any neighbouring Councils were offering a similar scheme and if so, how it was being received.

Cllr Toinko advised that while a number of such libraries are operating around the country there are no similar schemes locally that he knew of, however a group called Sustainable Bedford were looking at delivering a similar programme in the near future.

Cllr Badham raised about the amount of space needed to store items belonging to the Library of Things. Cllr Toinko stated the amount of space needed would depend on the size of the programme FTC supported, it could be as small as a cupboard space or something of a larger size, such as the Tractor Store.

Cllr Earles stated she has attended to repair workshops, delivered by similar schemes in other parts of the country. The repair workshops were a real community hub and a good way of bringing the community together.

It was **RESOLVED** for FTC staff members to discuss The Library of Things with the organisers and come back to Community Services with a formal proposal. (Vote – 7 in favour, 1 abstention)

f. War Memorial Listing

Cllr Badham had requested information from National Heritage to register Flitwick's War Memorial as a 'listed Memorial'. This would protect the memorial against future developments or changes to surrounding land. When listed, everything within the metal poppy fencing would be protected.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with discussions with Natural Heritage to 'list' Flitwick's War Memorial.

857. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Environmental Update

Members have requested inviting Steve Dixon to a Town Council meeting to give an environmental update.

Town Clerk would write to Steve Dixon to check availability and send invite.

b. Lawsons Circus

Cllr Snape asked if The Environmental Services Manager could inform the police when the circus would be in Flitwick.

c. Public Realm Supervisor Report

Members raised concerns regarding potential fly tipping on the old leisure centre site. People had been accessing the site via a broken fence near the houses. The site had recently been cleared from fly tipping by the Public Realm Team.

Cllr Lutley commented that allotment holders had been seen using the Biffa bin by the Tractor Store. The bin is often left unlocked due to being used by The Seedbox at weekends. The Public Realm Team agreed to monitor the situation.

d. **CBC Leisure Site Information Schedule & Outdoor Sport Priority List**

Cllr Snape noted much of the list was incorrect, with spaces being down as FTC owned. The Environmental Services Manager reported she was working through the list to correct mistakes within the document.

e. **Community Services Manager Report**

Members noted the report presented by The Community Services Manager.

f. **Manor Park Update**

Members noted the update on Manor Park.

g. **Flit Valley Walk**

Cllr Snape had received some positive feedback regarding the Flit Valley Walk. Members are keen to see a repeat of the walk over the summers.

858. **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**.

No residents wished to speak

859. **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: 20:57