



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 1st MARCH 2022
AT 7:45 PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE**

Present:

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

Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Zoe Putwain – Community Services Officer

A member of the public joined the session remotely at 7.45pm

956. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were required as all members attended the meeting.

957. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared by members
- (b) No Non-Pecuniary interests were declared

958. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made by the chair.

959. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public chose to speak to the members.

960. INVITED SPEAKER

No invited speaker was requested to attend this meeting.

961. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Members raised questions as to the possibility of installing benches in both Station Road and Hinksley parks. The Environmental Services Manager advised that there was no reason why not to and that they would look into the suggestion and possible funding options.

Members also raised an email that had been sent to all Members from a resident in relation to the country park and wildlife habitat. It was discussed that the Management

plan for the park would be in progress and as part of that project the way in which the wildlife habitats and other nature resources would be managed going forward would be incorporated into that project. The Environmental Services Manager informed members that the Town Clerk would be contacted in relation to this enquiry and feedback given back to members.

Councillors raised concerns as to the installation of temporary structures to advertise events and planning applications along and around the bridal path situated opposite Windmill Road. Health and Safety concerns were discussed including the possible implications to horse riders in the area. It was confirmed by the Environmental Services Manager that this land was not in the control of FTC. It was suggested that if items such as these be noticed by members in future that information be passed on to the relevant department at CBC who manage the land.

Members raised questions as to the date of the Communication service plan and the date of publication. It was decided that the Marketing and Communications Manager would be asked to supply this information.

962. MINUTES

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on 1st February 2022 with the amendment to the timings of members and public attending and leaving the meeting.

963. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Members did not identify any matters to discuss in relation to the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting 1st February 2022.

964. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Rural Match Funding – Integrated Programme 2022-23

Members received correspondence and information on the application process for the Highways Improvement Scheme 2022. Members were asked to consider any schemes they may wish to put forward. Any proposed schemes will have to be match funded with a 50% contribution from the Town Council.

This item was discussed at Council on 18th January, and it was agreed after discussion, that each Committee should discuss this opportunity in line with their priorities as the deadline was not until 8th April.

Suggestions brought by members to discuss and put forward included the following:

-

- Benches and planters to be located on our sites or CBC land such as the triangle between Townfield Road and Lyle Close.
- Bollards to prevent parking on verges the areas would need to be confirmed that requirement is needed through a walk around the town,
- Plants to avoid parking on verges due to them being more aesthetically pleasing and helpful to the environment.
- Traffic calming measures such as the smiley face signs
- Froghall road chicanes removal as previously discussed
- Reduce speed measures near the nursery on Maulden road

Members did suggest that as the project will be part funded that it would be preferred to have the suggestions move more towards the benches and planters, rather than projects that would be deemed in the remit of Highways.

A member of the public joined the session at 8.11pm

b. Lockdown Car Show – Resident Request

Members received a request from the organiser of the Flitwick Lockdown Car Show for the use of Millennium Park and the area out the front of Barclays Bank on Sunday 21st August 2022

Members discussed the possible implications of allowing the use of the land outside Barclays bank and raised concern as to the possibility of damage to the surface. It was questioned if the land was of a suitable construction for cars to be situated on it.

It was **RESOLVED** to permit use of the Station Square land outside Barclays pending the assessment that the land would be suitable to parking cars on, obtained from CBC.

At a Town Council meeting in February, it was resolved to allow Street Food Heroes to hold an event on Millennium Park one Sunday a month from May to September. Street Food Heroes will be attending on Sunday 21st August, as agreed with The Community Services Manager and Lockdown Car Show organiser. The Lockdown Car Show organiser requested permission to place Street Food Heroes on the hard standing area within Millennium park for the duration of the event.

Members discussed concerns over the suitability of the basketball surface for parking on and the loss of the facility for the duration of the event. The history of the court space being that of the old Skate Park was raised and the previous and intended use for FTC events where the space is used in a similar manner.

It was **RESOLVED** to permit use of the basketball court for the duration of the event on the 21st August to be used by the Street Food Hero's, pending the SAG approval for the Lockdown Car Show.

965. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Marketing & Communications Plan 2021-22

Members raised questions the Marketing & Communications Plan including: -

- Clarification as to the Future Community Garden Projects, in the Grow your own section as although this would be a welcomed addition there was no information about a community garden project known by the members.
- Information around the Wheelbarrow Parade was requested with members and the Community Services Officer suggesting that this was planned to be part of the Carnival event that had since been replaced by the Family Fun Day and was not something that was being planned at this point in time this was supported by members.
- Promoting allotments – The Environmental Services Manager expressed that due to the waiting list for allotments promotions had been reduced due to lack of availability for this resource currently.
- Flitwick In Bloom – Members discussed that it had been previously decided that to participate in this event there would need to be more work completed and so it should be removed from the plan.
- Community Awards – It was succeeded that this event is reworded for the change in event.

It was suggested by members that the information supplied on the plan included only events that are still active to limit confusion as to events and other activities going forward. It was also raised that the colouring of the document caused confusion and the chair suggested that they would raise this at the corporate committee as this would affect all committees and so could not be decided by Community alone. It was also suggested by members that pertaining to the communications survey the question around the Barclays frontage, Station Square was highlighted in the hopes to increase the feedback from residents.

b. Marketing & Communications Forward Plan

Members noted the Marketing & Communications Forward Plan circulated.

c. Greensand Heritage Tree Post

Members were advised previously that a charity called 'The Tree Register' who along with the Greensand Country project are working to record and create a Heritage Tree Trail within the Greensand Country area. The trail will include a survey of notable trees and 10 waymark posts, one of which will be located within the Manor Park. The proof for the Heritage Post was attached. A date of installation is yet to be confirmed.

Members noted the information and requested clarification as to the FTC logo not being on the sign. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that FTC had not been involved in funding this item.

d. Budget

Members noted the budget for Community Committee circulated.

e. Delivery Plan & Committee Priorities

- i) Members noted the Delivery Plan for Community Services.
- ii) Members noted the consolidated list of Committee priorities.

966. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public selected to talk during this session although correspondence was received through messages in teams of support for

Members of the public left the session at 8.41pm

967. EXEMPT ITEMS

The members were asked to move the following items into the Exempt section of the meeting.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee – Thursday 2nd June – for consideration

It was **RESOLVED** to move the agenda item **The Queens Platinum Jubilee** – Thursday 2nd June to the Exempt section of the meeting.

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.

The meeting ended at 9.19pm