



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2022
AT 7:45 PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present:

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

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

944. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following reasons for absence for members, Cllr Thompson due to family commitments and Cllr Dann being on holiday.

945. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

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

- (a) No Disclosable Pecuniary interests were identified by the members
- (b) No Disclosable Pecuniary interests were identified by the members

946. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair shared that Council members had attended the Redborne COP 1 event held at the Rufus Centre and that the Community Services Committee had been very well represented. Acknowledgment was given as to the positivity of the event.

947. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public chose to speak to the members during this session however the chair informed members that the public speaker in relation to 952C would be invited to speak during that part of the meeting, but they were not present at the time of this section.

948. INVITED SPEAKER

No speakers were invited to attend this meeting.

Cllr Lutley joined the meeting at 7.47pm

949. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No members elected to ask questions.

950. MINUTES

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on 4th January 2022 with no amendments.

951. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Members raised clarification as to the grass cutting payments to Central Bedfordshire Council raised at the January Community meeting. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that they would pass on details as to the reason for the payment when available by email within 7 days.

Confirmation of the actions toward the Resolution on applying pressure to Tree planning in January's meeting were sought by members.

Officers confirmed that contact had been made with Ward Councillors and CBC representatives. Although there was no progress achieved through those avenues currently.

Members discussed being active in the Ampthill area and the progress achieved on tree planting and work towards the green canopy. It was discussed that there would be knowledge gained from their process and perceived agreement with CBC to establish how Flitwick would be able to move forward with this project. Council suggested that this would be something that members would investigate and pass the relevant information on to the Environmental Services Manager.

Members also suggested that the question be raised at Town Council, with Cllr Dixon being invited back to Council by members. Climate change encompasses a lot

Members did raise that the time scale for this work would be limited to the Spring.

A member of the public joined the meeting at 7.54pm

952. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chair requested to address section 952. c out of sequence due to a member of the public being invited to address the committee.

c. Bees Proposal

Members considered the proposal previously circulated in relation to the request to have Beehive placement permission given to a local resident.

A brief discussion followed a short summary by the public member that included clarification as to why Manor Park was the preferred location and the reasons for the request of relocation. Other areas were discussed such as the field at the Rufus Centre and allotment sites.

Members discussed and shared their support for the idea of the project, Clarification was gained as to the security of sites

Members and Officers raised concern about planning limitations set on Manor Park as well as the health and Safety concerns. Initial planning agreement in 2005 screen belt of planting 110m by 15m privacy of the neighbours with no modern structures which would need to be looked into if the site would be used.

Environmental Services Manager confirmed that she was working on this in relation to Health and Safety

It was **RESOLVED** for the Environmental services Manager to work with the member of the public, to consider various locations and return to the Community Services Committee with a possible two options at a future meeting.

A member of the public left the meeting at 8.11pm

a. Community Awards

Members received a report from the Community Services Chairman and considered the recommendations within the report in relation to a proposed amendment to the Community Awards.

Members discussed the previous format and limitations thereof noting that the new format would be more in fitting with the original concept. Additionally, to include the community engagement in nominations for tickets for the event.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept option 1 of the report to remove the Community Awards process and replace with an annual recognition event as detailed.

b. Public Art

Members received a report from the Community Services Manager. Members were asked to consider the recommendations within the report.

Members discussed reasons as to why a consultant would be beneficial and that the expertise required was not available in the Council. That a consultant in place would increase the possibility to provide a lasting, enduring provision and benefit to the community. It was also confirmed with the Community Services Manager that the £16,000 was committed from the 106 funds originally allocated.

It was **RESOLVED** to use the £16,000 already committed for a consultant to work with residents, schools, groups and organisations and businesses to produce an artist brief.

d. Resident Driven Projects

Members considered a report from the Senior Management Team and considered the recommendations within the report.

Members discussed aspects of the report including the requirement that projects will need to be delivered within 12 months in order to prevent ongoing dependency on staff time, and that no project should involve lasting changes to FTC land.

It was **RESOLVED** to contact previous applicants and to open applications to the wider community.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the criteria with the amendment to point 1 with the following being incorporated - projects should not involve lasting changes or capital investment in Council land or buildings.

e. Jubilee Beacon Lighting

The Community Services Manager gave a verbal report as to the guidance given to in relation to the lighting of the Beacon to commemorate the Jubilee celebrations on the 2nd July 2022.

The suggested guidance was discussed as was the non-availability of the suggested performers. Members discussed the impact on the town and the financial implication of holding an event at 9.45pm on a Bank Holiday weekend. However, it was also raised that other neighbouring Towns and villages would be holding an event.

Discussion was made as to different locations and what could be delivered in the time scale. Members requested that Officers looked into other viable options for the eventing and returned to the community services meeting in March with a few proposals. It was acknowledged that this was leaving a short amount of time for the event to be set.

953. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Marketing & Communications Plan 2021-22

Members noted the status of actions for the Marketing & Communications Plan.

b. Marketing & Communications Forward Plan

Members noted the Marketing & Communications Forward Plan circulated.

c. Budget

Members raised that the removal of budget for the toilets on the burial ground and allotments still needed to be addressed. Members acknowledged that it would be preferred to inform the users of the facilities before the removal, and that if it were decided to continue with the provide then alternative budget would need to be provided

d. Officers Report

Members noted the Officers Report and confirmation was made that approximately £3,500 would be allocated from the welcome back fund for the bunting and flags for the Jubilee.

The Queens Green Canopy was discussed by members and using local groups to assist in the planting in the early stages with individuals hopefully invited in later stages with the collection and planting of their own trees.

The Environmental services Manager explained the process for the removal of the ragwort in Manor Park through the use of spot spaying and hand pulling approved by the advisor at

Natural England with any areas that have gaps being filled with the already approved wildflower seeds.

Stock fencing being addressed is a positive move to resolve concerns expressed by members of the public as to the access to areas of the park.

e. Ellenshaw Court / Hinksley Road Hedge

Members noted that Grand Union Housing have been in contact to advise that the shared hedge that borders Ellenshaw Court and Hinksley Road recreation field will be reduced in height to make it more manageable and more aesthetically pleasing. Costs will be covered by Grand Union Housing. Officers have undertaken a site visit and have no objection to this.

No comment was made by members in relation to this information.

f. Delivery Plan & Committee Priorities

- i) Members are asked to note the Delivery Plan for Community Services.
- ii) Members are asked to note the consolidated list of Committee priorities.

Members disputed the green status of the Green Agenda due to the lack of progression in this area. The Environmental Services Manager agreed to change the Green Status to better reflect the progress of this article.

g. Fun Fair

Members noted that Henry Harris Fun Fair will be taking place on the Millennium Park from 27th March 2022 to 11th April 2022

954. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public selected to talk during this session.

955. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

12a- Skate Park Community Resolution Order – Update

Members noted that all requirements of the individuals pertaining to the Resolution order had been completed.

12b- 4YP Report

Members noted the quarterly report from 4YP with a summary of events that had taken place.

It was **RESOLVED** to move 955 12a and 12b to exempt.

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.