



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 7th JUNE 2022
AT 7:45 PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE**

Present:

Cllr K Badham (Chairman)
Cllr D Toinko
Cllr A Lutley
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr A Snape

Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Mike Thorn – Environmental Services officer

992. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Chacko, Cllr P Earles, Cllr Meredith-Shaw and Cllr J Dann

993. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

994. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Cllr C Thompson and Cllr D Toinko for chairing the Community Services Committee for the last year, it was a good year for the committee with lots of work being progressed.

995. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of public were present

996. INVITED SPEAKER

Apologies had been received from PC L Dagley who was unable to attend. The Chair asked for any relevant matters to be forwarded on to PC Dagley.

997. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr D Toinko: What is the status of the Working Group for the Country Park?
A meeting is still to be arranged, it was delayed due to officer leave. We had also been waiting for a meeting with CBC to determine S106 funding, this meeting was held today.

Cllr A Snape: Thank you to officers for organising the new signage at the Hub. Graffiti has now appeared nearby, can this be removed?

Cllr A Snape: Regarding laying pipes for a water fountain and cables for lighting, can these be dealt with at the same time to minimise disruption?

It will not be possible to deal with the two services in one trench as the routes will be different.

Cllr A Snape: What can be done to improve the condition of the path between the play area at Millenium Park and Coniston Road?

Officers have been looking into this and the intention will be to make good the path when the trench is dug for services.

Cllr C Thompson: Why do the barriers at the Village Hall car park not run all the way through the car park?

Some of the barriers have been knocked down and therefore removed until they can be refitted more securely.

Cllr K Badham: Is there an update on the application to list the war memorial?

The application is being processed and we wait to hear once a decision is made.

998. MINUTES

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on 3rd May 2022 with the following amendment:

The resolution for item 988a should read as follows:

*It was **RESOLVED** for Officers to investigate options to develop the area outside Barclays Bank including looking at benches, bins, pop up coffee stalls, notice boards etc. Officers are to look into possible Section 106 funding that can be utilised in this area.*

999. MATTERS ARISING

- a. **988e:** Is there an update regarding spraying by CBC? Can this be raised at the Joint Committee Meeting with CBC? Cllr Toinko confirmed he is yet to send email to Environmental Services Manager with details and will do so after the meeting.

Cllr A Snape: This is not an agenda item for the Joint Committee but we will try to raise it with CBC.

- b. Is there any update regarding options for Teracycling?

We are currently looking at viability and costs to support schemes.

- c. **989f:** S106 was due to be a rolling item but is not on this agenda.

A meeting with CBC was held earlier today.

- Combined contributions have all been allocated. £274k is for the Country Park but CBC cannot show it as committed until scheme is approved.
- Community Cohesion £7,600, the agreement is not clear and we are working with CBC to find ways to use this fund for the frontage outside Barclays.
- Officers are looking at the best ways to use S106 funds for Dunstable Rd and Hinksley Rd recreation grounds.
- CBC Officers are willing to support projects that meet the requirements of the available S106 funds, as well as looking at options for additional sources of funding for important projects such as the Country Park.

1000. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Barclays Square**

At the May Community Services Meeting, Members discussed feedback from the residents survey in relation to Barclays Square and made the following resolution.

*'It was **RESOLVED** for Officers to investigate options to develop the area outside Barclays Bank including looking at benches, bins, pop up coffee stalls, notice boards etc.'*

Various options for benches, bins and signage had been circulated with the agenda. Options relating to a coffee van will be presented at a future meeting.

Members considered the options presented to them.

It was commented that the options did not allow for a superior quality flagship space and that well designed concrete benches had previously been suggested that may be a good scheme for this space. Also that public art should be featured.

The options presented were based on discussions at the last Community Services meeting.

Members discussed the merits of installing standard items as soon as possible with a view to developing a higher quality flag ship scheme in the future, or alternatively going straight to a higher quality flag ship scheme although this option may result in delays for installation.

Questions were raised about a vision for how the space would be used, which would influence the final layout of a scheme.

Power supply and related infrastructure would need to be resolved. The idea of festoon Christmas lights was suggested.

The scheme would need to be a deterrent for people driving onto the space.

Benches, bins and notice boards were identified as a priority from the resident survey.

It was suggested that it would be better to install some elements now rather than wait for a larger scheme including public art which would take time to develop.

Discussions continued regarding choice of materials, site layout, queries regarding parking by the bank. If a temporary installation then it should be stated that a more long term scheme is being planned.

This item was **DEFERRED** to a future meeting to allow officers time to prepare further information with additional costed options.

b. **Allotment Fees**

Members considered additional information that had been requested in relation to the allotment fee review, including comparisons with other local Town Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** not to increase allotment fees for the next allotment year.

c. **Maulden Road Boundary**

Members considered a report and quotation to secure the boundary of land at Maulden Road with a ditch and bund.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to secure the site with a ditch and bund at a cost of £4,900 to be funded from Rolling Capital Fund (RCF).

d. Biodiversity Statement

Members considered the biodiversity statement.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Biodiversity Statement with the following amendments:

- 1) references to 'district council' to be changed to 'unitary authority'.
- 2) In the final paragraph, final sentence to begin 'The Council endeavour to ensure'.

e. Environmental Audit

Members were asked to consider quotations received to conduct an Environmental Audit.

Members felt that this was not an item for Community Services committee should be tabled for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.

1001. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Marketing & Communications Plan

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

b. Marketing & Communications Forward Promotional Plan

Members noted the Marketing & Communications Forward Promotional Plan circulated.

c. Financial Reports

Members noted the Financial Reports for Community Committee circulated.

d. Delivery Plan & Committee Priorities

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

A question was raised regarding the Green Agenda and whether anything was being done to acknowledge the volunteer input in the recent planting schemes.

Officers are requesting quotes for signage for this.

e. Officer Update

Members noted the Officers' update.

Regarding the proposed market, questions were raised about power supply for traders, vans driving onto the 'beach' area and any cost implications for the Council. It was commented that we should be encouraging events. It was also commented that any surplus income should not be allocated to the Mayor's charity fund.

f. Gumbles

Members noted that Gumbles Children's Fun Zone will be attending the Millennium Park from 23rd August – 30th August 2022. The open days will be from 25th August – 29th August 2022. SAG has been obtained.

1002. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of public were present

1003. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

12a – Millennium Park

Members to receive a verbal report from the Community Services Manager

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolved** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm