



COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Committee meeting held on Thursday April 29th 2021 at 19.00hrs. Meeting held with remote attendance

Present:

Chair: Councillor J Johns.
Committee Members: J Buczkowski, M Dale, G Guest, K Haslett (Ex-officio)

In Attendance:

Councillors: I Emmett, C Snow
Officers: J. Norris (Town Clerk), M. Weston (Deputy Town Clerk) and S. Reardon (Assistant Town Clerk)

Also Present: Volunteer Footpath Warden: N Savage
1 no. member of the public

CW90. Chair's Announcements

The Chair may make announcements relevant to the work of the Committee.

Note: announcements are for information only and not for debate, discussion or questioning.

The Chair advised that District Councillor N. Woollatt had reported that the broken section of the Leat fence above Millennium Way was due to be addressed with a replacement barrier being installed (by Devon County Council). There is also an issue with fencing in disrepair by the footpath running alongside Linear Park open space however this will not be repaired/replaced as is not deemed a health & safety issue.

CW91. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence from Councillors unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Guest has sent apologies as will be late to the meeting due to a prior engagement.

Note: Councillors C Snow and G Guest joined the meeting.

CW92. Declarations of Interests

To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors and Officers in respect of matters to be considered at this meeting, together with an appropriate statement regarding the nature of the interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

Councillor G Guest declared a personal interest in agenda item 8. Public Rights of Way, as he is a member of the Devon Countryside Access Forum.

Chair's Initials

Councillor M Dale declared a personal interest in agenda item 13. Christmas Festivities 2021 - Financial Authority as he is Chair of the Christmas Event Working Group and will be speaking on this matter at the relevant point in the meeting.

CW93. Public Participation

To allow members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to the work of the committee; up to 3 minutes will be allowed for each person.

Speaker 1: Re: Council meetings –There is an increasing trend that Councillors are either late in attending meetings or are leaving part way through to go to other meetings. Surely a Councillor is summoned to a meeting and their priority is to represent the Council? Can this be clarified in a letter of response please?

A response was given that this will be followed up.

Note: Cllr. K. Haslett joined the meeting.

CW94. Minutes:

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2021 as a correct record.

Note: It was advised that the attachment to the minutes (YMCA Report- Supporting Paper A1) was added as an (exceptional) addendum, included for ease of reference as opposed to 'cutting and pasting' the relevant information into the minutes themselves. Further, this addendum directly related to the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the draft Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 18th March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

Note: Cllr. K Haslett apologised for being late to the meeting and for the technical issues she was experiencing (camera related)

CW95. Action List:

The Action List relating to the Community Wellbeing Committee was received and reviewed (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda) and it was:

RESOLVED: To approve the Action List as applies to the Community Wellbeing Committee.

CW96. Financial Monitoring:

To receive and review information about the Community Wellbeing Committee income, expenditure and commitments, compared to the 2020/21 budget estimates. (Supporting Papers to the agenda C: Income & Expenditure & D: Financial Summary Report & Graphs)

RESOLVED: That the financial monitoring papers of the Community Wellbeing Committee are noted and accepted.

Note:

- i. No monies have been budgeted this year for the Crier publication but it is hoped that this will be replaced with an electronic version targeted at businesses. A 'hard copy' format will be available upon request.
- ii. Clarification was sought as to Code 4096 Christmas Event £309.00. It is believed this relates to a Journal entry from the staffing budget to the Christmas Event budget and

is for a recharge of staff overtime. This will be confirmed and reported at the next Committee meeting in May.

CW97. Public Rights of Way

An oral report was received from Cullompton's Volunteer Footpath Warden.

Leat Work

Still awaiting on input from the Devon County Council P3 Officer.

Proposed P3 Footpath Walks

A programme of walks has been scheduled - subject to government guidelines and its proposed 'Roadmap out of Lockdown'.

9th June & 23rd June – Local walks. No car sharing required + 14th July – Car sharing is required. (Weaver, Plymtree & Langford Green Walks will require car sharing)

Leat Incident:

There had been an unfortunate incident yesterday whereby a member of the public had lost control of their electric scooter on the Leat path (between Middle and Higher Mills) and had gone through the chrome barriers diagonally and straight down into the water. This necessitated a trip to hospital but thankfully the party concerned was able to go home relatively quickly and there were no major/lasting injuries.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that given that an incident had occurred, improvements are definitely needed. The section of the Leat where the incident occurred is very narrow. Perhaps a barge board is required? The Volunteer Footpath Warden advised that he had already reported this incident to Devon County Council via its website and has asked for an urgent site visit by the (County) Footpath Warden.

Note: It was agreed that a vote of thanks should be given to those members of the public and employees of the adjacent supermarket (Tesco) for their assistance in coming to the aid of the member of the public who had endured this ordeal.

RESOLVED: That following consideration by the Community Wellbeing Committee of a report that a member of the public had fallen into the Leat and due to associated health and safety concerns, that:

- i) a letter is sent to Devon County Council to request, as a matter of urgency, improvements to the surface and if possible, widening of the public footpath for safety and that;
- ii) some form of safety rail/barrier is erected, particularly where the incident had happened i.e. where the slope (from Tesco car park) joins the foot path.

Note: The Assistant Town Clerk joined the meeting.

Keystone Project Volunteers

The Keystone Volunteers have kindly assisted with vegetation clearance of the lane running from the China Bell to Crow Green and also on the Leat footpath. Volunteer Footpath Warden will compile a report on the works as undertaken.

Note: It was agreed that a vote of grateful thanks should be extended to the Keystone Project volunteers and also the Cullompton Volunteer Footpath Warden for all of their hard work with the Public Rights of Way.

Chair's Initials

CW98. Allotments - Haymans Close & Top Field Allotment Sites - Update:

Consideration was given to the Top Field and Hayman's Close Allotment Sites Report (Supporting Paper E to the agenda).

Note: It was recognised that there is a clear need for maintenance to be undertaken on the Top Field and Haymans Close allotment sites and that associated funding (capital investment) will be required. It would be unfair to 'burden' tenants and there is a need to look at the funding and to ensure that rental income covers the running costs.

RESOLVED: That following consideration of the Haymans Close & Top Field Allotment Sites Update Report, that the Community Wellbeing Committee:

- i) accept all of the recommendations contained therein;
- ii) request that the Policy, Finance & Personnel Committee or the Full Town Council, identify some funding for the allotment sites.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recognised that there is a clear need for maintenance to be undertaken on the Top Field and Haymans Close allotment sites and that associated funding (capital investment) will be required. As such, the Community Wellbeing Committee request that the Policy, Finance & Personnel Committee or the Full Town Council, identify some associated funding for these allotment sites.

CW99. Draft Resource & Waste Start:

The report relating to the Draft Resource & Waste Strategy Report was considered and it was

RESOLVED: That following consideration of the Draft Resource & Waste Strategy, the Community Wellbeing Committee request that a letter is sent to Devon County Council requesting that consideration is given to the provision of a community waste facility, similar to those located in both Tiverton and Exeter e.g. for the disposal of bulky items.

Note: An update report will be supplied to the Town Council.

CW100. Youth Services Provision – Space at the Hayridge Centre, Cullompton: –

Consideration was given to the report relating to a potential youth space at the Hayridge Centre (Supporting Paper G to the agenda) and the question as to whether the Town Council should support this project. Discussion ensued and taking into account that the Town Council had adopted a youth strategy a few years ago, it was:

RESOLVED: That following consideration of the proposals relating to a dedicated youth space within the Hayridge Centre by the Community Wellbeing Committee, the Town Council:

- i) fully support this venture;
- ii) would very much wish to be involved with this project;
- iii) advises that there will be no associated financial support forthcoming from the Town Council as whilst it does have a youth services budget, the majority of these monies have been used for the contract with the YMCA for youth provision in the town.

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Note: The Community Wellbeing Committee would like to be apprised of any further support that is needed in order to bring this project to fruition. Whilst the youth services budget for 2021-22 has been committed, there are grants available and the Town Council will support this project where able.

CW101. Community Networking –

Consideration was given by the Committee, to the options for future working practices (Supporting Paper H to the agenda). Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this topic should be added as an agenda item for future Committee discussion/debate.

CW102. Christmas Festivities 2021 - Financial Authority:

Consideration was given to the recommendation from the Christmas Lights Event Working Group in relation to delegated financial authority (Supporting Paper I to the agenda) and it was:

RESOLVED: That following consideration of the recommendation from the Christmas Lights Event Working Group in relation to delegated financial authority (Supporting Paper I to the agenda) the Community Wellbeing Committee:

- i) Give delegated authority to the Town Clerk on advice from the Christmas Event Working Group, to spend monies from the Christmas Event budget (Code 4096 £4,000.00) as follows:

Description	£
Entertainment	£500.00
St. Johns Ambulance (First Aid Cover) / Health & Safety Category	£500.00
Christmas Gifts (Santa’s Grotto)	£300.00
Christmas Competitions & Publicity	£300.00
Authority for spend, if required, for a PA system/stage - infrastructure	£2,000.00
Totalling	£3,600.00

CW 103. Play Area Cleaning:

Consideration was given to the Council’s position with the cleaning of the Town Council’s Play Areas now that government restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic are lifting (Supporting Paper J to the agenda) . It was

RESOLVED: That following consideration by the Community Wellbeing Committee:

1. of the Council’s position with the cleaning of the Town Council’s Play Areas now that government restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic are lifting and as;
2. the associated Risk Assessment does not demonstrate that there is any reduction in risk by having the play areas cleaned;
3. the virus as far as we are aware, is not within the community or is low;
4. there are no other operators in the parish who are undertaking cleaning of their play areas –

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that:

- i) cleaning of the Council's 5 no. play areas should cease with 1 no. week's notice given to the external contractor;
- ii) with the caveat that the Town Clerk should monitor the situation with the play areas and is authorised to re-instate a cleaning regime should this be required, until such time this can be reviewed by the Community Wellbeing Committee.

SW 104. Animal Welfare – Ducks:

Consideration was given to the Council's view in relation to the installation of signage highlighting Cullompton's resident duck population, in and around Station Road (Supporting Paper L to the agenda). Discussion ensued and it was:

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent to the relevant parties at Devon County Council to request an on-line (video) meeting with the Town Council (representative Councillors) to discuss the issue of road safety in Cullompton;
This matter should also be referred to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (Haytock)

CW105. To consider Members Questions: This agenda item is to give Councillors an opportunity to ask questions which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

- i) Cllr. Guest: Would like to request that an item is added to a Town Council agenda (perhaps September..) to discuss footpath accessibility;
- ii) Cllr. Buczkowski: Would like to request than an item is added to a Town Council agenda to discuss the 50p entrance charge as levied by the YMCA for its Youth Services provision sessions. When was this agreed? Why this has been applied?

CW106. RESOLVED: To exclude the public and press during consideration of agenda Item 18 - Christmas 2021 Lights Provision on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (Financial Information & items subject to negotiation)
The reports relating to this agenda item have been withheld from public circulation and deposit.

CW107. RESOLVED: To extend the meeting for a period of ten minutes.

CW108. Christmas Lights – Provision for 2021

Consideration was given to the Christmas Lights Report (Supporting Paper M to the agenda, for Members only) and to the quotations as received for the provision of the 2021 Christmas Lights for the town. It was

RESOLVED: To appoint Sparkex as the preferred contractor to supply and to install the 2021 Christmas Lights for Cullompton, at a cost of £11,390.00.

The meeting closed at 9:09pm.

Chair's Signature & Date