



COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Committee meeting held on
Thursday 16th December 2021 at 19.00hrs in the Town Hall, 1 High Street,
Cullompton, EX15 1AB

Present

Chair: Councillor J. Johns

Committee Members: Councillor G. Guest

Co-opted Committee Member: Councillor M. Rowe

In attendance

Note: Councillors attending by remote access are not able to participate nor vote in the meeting but may raise questions during the agenda item for Members' Questions

Officers: M. Weston (Deputy Town Clerk)

1 no. member of the press was present

CW **Co-option of Committee Member**

213. As only 2 no. Committee Members were present and in line with the Town Council's Scheme of Delegation, it was agreed, in order to ensure the meeting was quorate, to co-opt Councillor M. Rowe as a Committee Member for this meeting.

CW **Chair's Announcements**

214. The Chair undertook a 'roll call' of those present in the Town Hall and advised that the:

- i) steering wheel for the Tufty Play Area tractor had now been received and installed and that the Heras fencing that had been in situ (around the tractor) had been removed;
- ii) Agenda for this meeting contained an item to consider the setting up of a Working Group to review the Christmas arrangements.

CW **Apologies for Absence**

215. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Andrews, J. Buczkowski and M. Dale.

CW **Declarations of Interests**

216. No declarations of interests were made regarding any items on the Agenda at this stage of the meeting.

CW **Public Participation**

217. This agenda item allows members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

No matters were raised.

CW Minutes

218. Consideration was given to the draft Minutes of the meetings held on 21st October 2021 (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda) and 18th November 2021 (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda) and it was:

RESOLVED to approve as a correct record, the draft minutes of the meetings held on 21st October 2021 and 18th November 2021.

CW Action List

219. The Action List as applies to the Community Wellbeing Committee was received and reviewed (Supporting Paper C to the Agenda)

CW Financial Monitoring

220. Information about the Community Wellbeing Committee income, expenditure and commitments, compared to the 2020/21 budget estimates was received and reviewed; this included:

- (i) Financial Summary & Graphs (Supporting Paper D to the Agenda)
- (ii) Committee Income & Expenditure – Month 7, October 2021 (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)
- (iii) Committee Income & Expenditure – Month 8, November 2021 (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)
- iv) Nominal Ledger Year-to-date breakdown of Committee Expenses & Income (Supporting Paper G to the Agenda)
- (v) Committee Earmarked Reserves (Supporting Paper H to the Agenda)

RESOLVED to note the financial reports.

CW Comments & Complaints

221. An overview of the Committee's Comments & Complaints Log was reviewed and noted (Supporting Paper I to the Agenda)

CW Tree Planting Initiative

222. Consideration was given to tree provision/tree planting scheme for Cullompton (Supporting Paper J to the agenda)

RESOLVED: Cullompton Town Council is generally supportive of tree planting and accepts Mid-Devon District Council's Tree Planting Initiative at Crow Bridge/Green on the understanding that Mid-Devon District Council responds in writing to the following points before any tree planting takes place:

1. Cullompton Town Council wishes to highlight that Crow Green is a good amenity for the local community, being historically a large open space and very popular with local residents including children, who do use this regularly e.g. for playing football, walking, dog walking etc. The Cullompton neighbourhood Plan includes a section relating to the protection of open/green spaces which was included with the aim of stopping public areas of green disappearing. This should therefore be considered by Mid-Devon District Council when looking to progress with this scheme.

Administrators Note: Excerpt from page 46 of the Neighbourhood Plan (below) refers –

Local Green Space

9.11 A recent audit and assessment of local play areas and parks has been carried out on behalf of the Town Council. It looked at all local play areas and ‘pocket parks’ and took a view as to whether they were fit for purpose, capable of being maintained properly and worthy of protection. The conclusions from this assessment are reflected in the list of local green spaces in Policy EN03. The Local Plan through its policy DM24 recognises the value of local green space and acknowledges that “sites which are particularly important to local communities may be designated as Local Green Space, through the preparation of local or neighbourhood plans”.

9.12 We are pleased to recognise that the town area has several small green areas that contribute significantly to the appearance and character of the local area and provide for a range of informal community leisure activities of the local population, not least providing somewhere safe for young children to play, as many of them do. Cullompton Town Council will be exploring how to reinforce their value as part of a network of green infrastructure throughout the town. As Natural England has reminded us, “green infrastructure can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement”⁴².

9.13 The areas identified in Policy EN03 meet the criteria of the NPPF (para. 100) which enables them to be designated as ‘local green space’ i.e.:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

9.14 A thorough assessment of potential sites was carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to assess whether the ‘candidate’ sites met the NPPF criteria, including being demonstrably special to the local community. Consistent with the approach of Local Plan policy DM24, those ‘green’ sites that are valued primarily for their sport and recreational purposes, are identified on map 6 (page 48) and subject to a separate Policy WL01. The sites that are subject to Policy EN03 are designated as Local Green Space because they are highly valued green areas that contribute significantly to the amenity of their neighbourhood, and the community wants to ensure they continue to do so for a very long time. A Site Assessment Report⁴³ presents our site by site analysis and conclusions.

9.15 The sites we consider ‘qualify’ as local green space and to which Policy EN03 should apply are: Bilbie Close/Crow Bridge - a stretch of grass that provides for a range of informal leisure activities. It is bordered on two sides by a local brook.;...

- 2. It is understood that the trees will predominantly be planted in the corner of the Green close to Tufty Park;*
- 3. There is a watercourse (Leat/Millstream) that runs across part of this green area and there is a concern that the area is prone to flooding on occasion; it is requested that consideration should be given by Mid-Devon District Council to the types of trees that would be suitable for planting and their associated ability to absorb water;*
- 4. Consideration by Mid-Devon District Council should be given as to how the trees will be protected from damage/vandalism once planted, particularly as football is played on the Green;*
- 5. It is expected that Mid-Devon District Council will be responsible for:*

- i) Purchase (supply) of any trees;
- ii) Planting of and the future maintenance of said trees.

NB: It was further noted that there is Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed at Crow Green/Bridge and MDDC may need to look to address this before any planting is started at this location.

CW Christmas Event

223. Consideration was given as to whether a dedicated Working Group should be set up to review the Christmas 2021 event arrangements, with the purpose of identifying any organisational learning. It was:

RESOLVED: That a dedicated Working Group should be set up to review the Christmas 2021 event arrangements, with the purpose of identifying any organisational learning.

CW To consider Members Questions

224. This agenda item is to give Councillors an opportunity to ask questions which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

CW 224a. Councillor Rowe: Requested confirmation of the timing arrangements for the 'setting up' of the Christmas Event taking place the next day (i.e. Friday 21st December 2021) Meeting Administrator to confirm (outside of the meeting).

CW 224b. Councillor Guest: Asked for confirmation of the relevant contact (name) for Mid-Devon District Council in relation to a number of topics that are being addressed by the Town Council. The Meeting Administrator confirmed the appropriate details.

The Meeting closed at 7:33pm