



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 21st MAY 2018 AT 7.00PM AT THE GUILDHALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Linda Candlin (Chair)
Cllr Philip Edmundson (from 7.05pm)
Cllr Calne Edginton-White
Cllr Mary Fishwick

In attendance: Nick Farress, Town Clerk

163 Election of Chairman

Councillor Linda Candlin was elected Chairman for the 2018/19 Council year on a motion proposed by Councillor Edginton-White and seconded by Councillor Mary Fishwick.

164 Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Edginton-White was elected as Vice Chairman for the 2018/19 Council year on a motion proposed by Councillor Linda Candlin and seconded by Councillor Mary Fishwick.

165 Apologies

Cllrs Anna Coleman and Roger Coleman and Kyle Daisley, Community Engagement Officer.

166 Declarations of Interest

None

167 Dispensations

None

Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

168 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

169 Community Market

As agreed at the last meeting, the Community Engagement Officer provided an updated report which showed evidence that the concept of a community market would be welcomed plus examples from other similar markets in other towns.

AGREED

That the Community Engagement Officer be authorised to continue with the community market concept and keep this Committee updated as to progress.

170 Leisure Centre Ownership and Usage

As agreed at the last meeting, this was placed on the Agenda for discussion. The Town Clerk had received an update from Wyre Forest DC and read this to the Committee. The Centre is currently operated by Places for People on behalf of WFDC. The ownership is more complex involving a capital payback to WFDC in 2029 so this would make an asset transfer very complicated before that time. The Youth Centre may be up for sale but has its own issues surrounding safeguarding which has discouraged potential purchasers/lessees. It is possible to transfer the operation of the centre to the Town Council and this would at least give the Town Council a stake in the future development of the site.

It was **AGREED to recommend the following to the Policy and Resources Committee:**

- (i) that the Town Council enter into discussions with WFDC in relation to taking on the operation of the Leisure Centre;
- (ii) that the eventual asset transfer of the Leisure Centre is added to the Corporate Plan;
- (iii) that the Town Council enter into discussions with WCC in relation to the potential purchase of the Youth Centre building;
- (iv) that the Chairs of P&R, CDC and the Town Clerk take up the offer of a meeting with WFDC to discuss the detail of such arrangements.

171 Stanley Baldwin Statue

The Town Clerk and Councillor Edmundson advised that the Civic Society had not yet indicated when the statue would be installed and/or unveiled. It was noted that the Town Council remain ready to remove and/or store any street furniture as required.

172 Community Pantomime

The Chairman presented a report proposing that the Town Council support the organisation of a community pantomime and that the Community Engagement and Events Officer take the lead on the project. A venue for the show had been identified as the Mecure Bewdley The Heath Hotel and that a Lottery application had been made for funding.

AGREED

That the Town Council support the community pantomime project and to authorise the Community Engagement Officer to continue with organising the show.

173 Grit Bin Locations

The Town Clerk presented a summary of the locations suggested by members of the community that would benefit from a new grit bin or locations where a grit bin once was and has not been replaced. The locations were:

- The Hollow, off Richmond Road;
- Lakes Road/Baldwin Road;
- Tudor Road/Lyttleton Road;
- Castle Lane;
- Jordan's Walk/Kidderminster Rd;
- Meadow Rise (bottom);
- Sandbourne Drive (on the bend);
- Blossom Hill Estate.

AGREED

- (i) That the list of locations is sent to WCC and WCC Councillors;
- (ii) That the Lengthsman is to check all grit bins in September/October to make sure they are serviceable and have sufficient supplies.

174 Health Liaison Group

The notes of a meeting of the Health Liaison Group held on the 5th April 2018 were noted.

175 Town Plan Working Group

The notes of a meeting of the Town Plan Working Group held on the 23rd April 2018 were noted. A discussion then took place as to the current PACT arrangements and whether the Town Council should take more of a lead on this initiative which seems to have waned in recent years. It was therefore agreed that the issue would be placed on the agenda of the next Police Liaison Group meeting. It was further agreed that the Mayor and Committee Chairs would be invited to sit on the Police Liaison Group and that the meeting be arranged on a Tuesday evening at 6pm TBC.

176 Green Space Adjacent to the new Load Street Car Park

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that now the new car park has been completed, the green space on the right of the car park was now ready to be adopted by the Town Council as agreed in principle. However, concerns have been raised that the green space is not accessible from the top car park and that the space is already being used by local street drinkers.

It was AGREED to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the Town Council do not now adopt this piece of land as it is of little value as a public open space and would serve no useful function. The land should be retained and maintained by WFDC including the copper beech tree which is in its last stages of life and has the potential to become an expensive liability.

177 Community Members

It was agreed that the Town Clerk use Facebook to recruit potential new non-voting community members and that a summary of applications would be circulated to Members before the next meeting and interviews arranged with the Mayor.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

To note that the next scheduled ordinary meeting will be on **16th July 2018 at 6.00pm** (not 7.00pm as previously advised). Apologies already given by Councillor Edmundson.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....

Chairman Community Development Committee – 16th July 2018