

MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2021

PRESENT

- The Mayor – Councillor Jones
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Yates

49.APOLOGIES

Councillor Barlow and Councillor Perkin sent their apologies.

50.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

a) Disclosable pecuniary interests and dispensations

Councillor Sheldon declared an interest any matter relating to Biddulph in Bloom.

b) Other interests

None declared.

51.MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16 March were received.

52.TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE CONTENT OF AN AGENDA FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S WORKING GROUP MEETING, TO BE HELD IN JUNE 2021

Councillors had been sent notes from the previous meeting held on 2 December 2019.

The Chief Officer and Councillor McLoughlin noted that no meeting had taken place since December 2019 due to the Covid Pandemic.

The Chief Officer noted that the representation came from professionals working with young people rather than young people themselves and also included a representative from Sainsbury's due to some of the ongoing issues.

Councillor Jones agreed the meeting should take place but wondered if the agenda should be set by the group themselves.

The Chief Officer suggested that this agenda item was to set the Working Group in motion and to garner opinion on whether the Councillors were aware of pressing issues in their ward.

Councillor McLoughlin asked if the meeting could take place well before the end of the academic year so that any actions that occur during the summer months have time to be implemented.

Councillor Sheldon said she felt the meetings were very successful and suggested the format used so far was sufficient. Councillor Sheldon asked for an update about the status of CCTV camera in Biddulph Town Council as noted in the previous meeting under section 6.

The Chief Officer stated that she understood that the CCTV enhancements were delayed due to lockdowns, but will chase the District Council for an update.

Councillor Smith asked if any Councillors could attend the Working Group and the Chief Officer confirmed that any Councillor is invited to attend.

Councillor Salt said that a young person from Biddulph Youth and Community Zone was invited to the Working Group previously, but also suggested that this be extended to include head boys/head schools or other representatives from local schools. Councillor Salt also suggested that events that may be of interest to young people be included on the agenda.

The Chief Officer suggested that she liaise with the attendees as to whether the young people's representation that usually takes place in a separate meeting be kept separate, or whether a joint meeting would be welcomed.

Councillor Yates said he felt that it would be beneficial for young people be included and that it should not be restricted to high achieving young people.

Councillor Salt said she felt it was important that young people do attend the meeting with the professionals. Councillor McLoughlin suggested splitting the

meeting into confidential and non-confidential sections, but Councillor Salt said meetings should not include confidential items.

Councillor Sheldon said that the young people's community council meetings are working very well, and suggested that representatives from that group are invited to the Working Group.

Councillor Smith suggested that crime figures should not be included in the meeting as it is covered in Town Council and is quite a negative subject.

Councillor Jones proposed, seconded by Councillor Rogers that the meeting is arranged as soon as possible and that the group set their own agenda. Agreed.

53. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICER ABOUT A POTENTIAL CHANGING PLACES GRANT APPLICATION (GUIDE ATTACHED TO THE EMAIL). TO CONSIDER LOCATIONS FOR THESE ENHANCEMENTS.

The Chief Officer outlined that a Changing Places Grant has become available to create a space for carers of adults or older children who require an accessible space to change while out and about.

The Chief Officer wondered if the redundant Wharf Road toilet block may be a possible location. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had said that they haven't yet been allocated any Changing Places funding but if that is not forthcoming, funding may also be possible through the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Councillor McLoughlin asked how much of the building the grant would cover. The Chief Officer said that limited information on this was available at the moment, and it is only really known that £30m is available nationally. However, getting a well formed application in early is more likely to bring about a successful application.

Councillor McLoughlin said that sites could include the Visitor Centre, Wharf Road toilets and the Town Hall.

Councillor Rogers said he felt the suggestion of the space at the car park fits in well with the suggestions made at the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting last week about having a changing space for cyclists. He also felt the Visitor Centre would be a good option.

Councillor Smith suggested that people that would likely use the space be consulted on good locations and suggested holding a meeting inviting representatives from local groups. She felt the car park does seem a good option. She also felt the bus hub could be an alternative location. She did not advocate using the Town Hall as that would limit accessibility. Councillor Smith suggested reviewing similar facilities in Leek and Rudyard.

Councillor Yates asked if there is a blueprint of what is required of these spaces. He also felt the Wharf Road toilets would be a beneficial multiuse site which incorporates cycling facilities. He felt that the nearby parking at the Wharf Road toilet meant that the site was preferable to the bus hub. He also suggested an additional site at the Grange County Park Visitor Centre.

Councillor Jones echoed the need to consult and felt that the two sites suggested were very promising.

Councillor Jones proposed that the Chief Officer proceeds with the changing places grant with the Wharf Road toilets identified as a primary site and the Visitor Centre as a secondary site. All in favour.

Councillor Smith proposed that the Council visit similar sites. The Chief Officer said this can be possible though will need to be undertaken individually due to covid restrictions.

Councillor Salt suggested that the space could be shared between families with disabilities and cyclists and felt that this fitted in with the social model of disability.

Councillor Sheldon asked who would be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the site, which the Chief Officer confirmed the Town Council would, similar to how the nearby public conveniences are managed.

Councillor Jackson asked whether the Wharf Road building was under Staffordshire Moorlands District Council ownership. The Chief Officer confirmed that the Town Council is still working on finalising a lease for the building with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

Councillor Smith said that the space includes pull cords so it would need to be established where the pull cord alerts to. The Chief Officer said that it could link in with existing alert systems, but a full plan would need to address this.

Councillor Salt said that the pull cord could be linked to a care cord system.

Councillor Rogers asked if all the toilets on Wharf Road could be combined to keep maintenance costs down.

The meeting ended at 7.18pm.

Signed..... Date.....