

**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present** : Councillors Nichols, Tawn, Michael, Andrews, Carwadine (non-member attending the meeting), Kenyon, North (left 7.25), Toon (arrived 6.10), Boulter.

**Officers Attending** : Steve Kerry Town Clerk, Lesley Bruton, Finance Officer, Tracy Morriss Civic and Community Development Officer

**CD2013/14.104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**CD2013/14.105 SUBSTITUTIONS**

None

**CD2013/14.106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**CD2013/14.107 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of previous meeting presented. Councillor Andrews proposed, Councillor Nichols seconded and it was

**RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January be approved as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chairman**

**CD2013/14.108 ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Liz Moriewka to the meeting and invited her to present the annual report of the Hospice regarding their capital works programme. Liz displayed drawings of the various phases of the work and photographs of the work undertaken to date. Phase One is an £8m new build, Phase Two is a £3m redevelopment of the existing buildings. The purpose of the works is to offer each patient with a room with access to, and a view of, the renovated gardens, with much better facilities for patients' families, for the delivery of a wider range of therapies and better training facilities. Nursing stations are being organised within the new building to allow for unobtrusive observation respecting patients' needs for privacy. It was also stressed that the Hospice is not just a place to die with dignity and support, it also provides a substantial amount of respite care for people with longer term terminal diagnoses, and this is highly valued by the patients and their relatives. The first two phases of development are all geared to delivering these services better and providing more care for more people. Phase Three of the works is the development of a training and education block for home carers and Marie Curie nurses. Finally Liz explained how clinical requirements such as bacterially resistant materials in furniture,

reclining chairs with power operating etc make individual items very expensive, which is reflected in the high cost of the internal refurbishments once the building work is completed.

Councillors Nichols and Andrews spoke warmly of the care their relatives had received, and other members echoed this experience on behalf of their ward constituents. In answer to a question it was confirmed that some 50% of care at the hospice is respite rather than final stage terminal. The message about this aspect could be better publicised, even some GP's seem unaware of the provision, and some consultants seem to see referring a patient to the Hospice as an admission of defeat. People can self refer now using the "Living Well" course, and access support from sixteen voluntary groups offering self help and care. Phase Two completion will enable much more of this to happen.

After discussion Councillor Kenyon proposed, Councillor Andrews seconded and it was

**RESOLVED That the second part of the grant funds agreed on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be released.**

Ms Moriewka thanked the Committee for that decision and invited member to visit the facility when the building work is finished.

**Councillor Toon proposed, Councillor Michael seconded and it was**

**RESOLVED That Council be asked to approve sending a letter of thanks to Clive Richards for his donation of £1m to the Hospice Appeal.**

## **CD2013/14.109 CITY EVENTS REPORT**

In the absence of the City Events Manager the Town Clerk presented the report.

The Wedding Fayre is imminent and every member of staff has been involved in preparation for it. A number of members have volunteered to assist with putting out tables, setting up the gazebo in High Town and clearing away after the event. All publicity and advertising has been done and we hope for good weather.

Once the Wedding Fayre is delivered attention will turn to the delivery of Historical Hereford Day as the next major event, following by Tropical Hereford later in the summer. It is very unlikely that there will be small half term entertainments.

The Committee discussed the merit or otherwise of putting effort into Heritage Open Days, noting that the event is intended to open up private buildings not normally accessible to the public, which the Town Hall is, including vault tours by appointment. It was noted that attendance has been poor despite strenuous efforts by staff to publicise the opportunity, and that the small size of the vault space means that visitor numbers have to be limited. It was also noted that we could do

more to publicise the availability for vault tours. One possibility would be via the Guild of Guides, although a vault tour cannot be included in their standard walk.

It was proposed by Councillor Tawn, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and

**RESOLVED Not to participate in Heritage Open Day in September 2014, but to look to running an event on the equivalent date in 2015 with support from Museums and Archives to put on an interesting exhibition of the history of the Town Hall since it was built.**

The Committee considered the suggestion for a strategic review of events after Historical Hereford Day this year, noting that without funding for the City Events Manager post from Herefordshire the requirement to gear events solely to driving up footfall in High Town no longer applies. Other priorities such as developing Hereford more generally as a destination and supporting community events could now be considered especially if some of the events previously supported were not going to continue or require less time to sustain than they did to create. This should be informed by prior consultation such as a retail impact assessment to determine what effect events have on the city centre as well as reviewing the need for support for events in the other wards. It was considered that this review is a good idea and should take place in an informal, ie non-committee atmosphere for either a half day or a day to develop proposals that can then be formally discussed in committee.

#### **CD2013/14.110 GRANDSTAND PARK AND HEREFORD ROLLER CLUB BUILDINGS**

The Chairman explained that this item has three elements. Firstly to support a planning application to move a portacabin to provide office and support space for a community group on Grandstand Park, secondly to convert a warehouse building to an indoor roller skating facility and finally to permit the Town Clerk, where approved by ward members, to provide similar support up to an agreed figure for planning applications of community value in future.

There was concern that if in the early stages of a plan community groups see the Council coming forward with funding of this type it might discourage them from raising their own funds. Members cited some examples of groups that had managed to raise this kind of funding and some felt it was an important part of the process that they should do this. It was suggested that where groups wished to access start up funds, the smaller community grants for new groups of up to £300 requiring minimal evidence of past history, but some evidence of active fund raising might be a more appropriate route than directly funding planning applications. Finally it was suggested that Fran White at Herefordshire Council might be able to commission pre-planning advice from her colleagues on matters relating to parks facilities.

It was proposed by Councillor Toon, seconded by Councillor Andrews and

**RESOLVED That the Committee approves the payment of £195-00 in respect of the Grandstand Park portacabin application to cover planning fees.**

It was proposed by Councillor Nichols, seconded by Councillor North and

**RESOLVED That the Committee approves the payment of £156-00 in respect of the Hereford Roller Club application for conversion of premises to cover planning fees.**

It was proposed by Councillor Toon, seconded by Councillor Andrews and

**RESOLVED That where ward councillors agree, the Town Clerk is authorised to make payments of planning fees to support applications of community benefit up to the value of £200-00 from the Street Scene budget for ward items.**

## **CD2013/14.111 WARD REPORTS**

**Aylestone** – Nothing available

**Belmont** – Nothing available

**Central** – Councillor Tawn reported that his request for a litter bin in Maylord's Street had been met with a request to commit to ongoing costs of emptying the bin of £280-00 per week, and the cost of installation had risen to £750-00. This is outside the agreement previously in place with Herefordshire and Amey where it was recognised that any extra bin emptying cost was more than offset by reduced street cleaning, as well as a better environment for all. He was pursuing this, and a plan to move existing bins to better locations to avoid the need for a new purchase.

**St Martin's and Hinton** - Councillor Oliver reported that Holme Lacey Road is now open after repairs to a major pothole, exacerbated by recent flooding. Of the five community centres in the ward Hunderton has now closed, although it was not known why. Hinton is going well with boxing and judo clubs in place. Saxon Hall is very busy now and Red Hill and the Kindle Centre are also seeing plenty of bookings. The ASDA walk-in health centre remains a much valued facility. He has noted evidence around the ward that private owners are struggling to maintain their properties, although Herefordshire Housing are doing up the Ross Road flats. The Saxon Gate development still has outstanding snagging issues on landscaping.

**St Nicholas** – Councillor Michael stated that a written report would be circulated shortly but was not ready for the meeting.

**Three Elms** – Councillor Toon reported that Moor Farm have received £5,000 from Welcome to Our Future, and are awaiting the announcement from Veolia on a larger bid. The planning application for the foot bridge is now in. This should resolve parking and road safety issues around Trinity School. The Holmer Skate Park has got planning permission for a new building and lights, and have received £5,000 in grants. In both these cases the initial commitment of the City Council was pivotal in obtaining funds from other providers.

**Tupsley** – Councillor North reported that the AGM of the Central Tupsley Community Group will take place on Monday next week, seeking people from areas not previously represented. The 10 kilometre race for health and wellbeing is being

organised with approximately 200 runners. Councillor Nichols advised members that a recent funding breakfast Cargills had offered to match fund the money raise by any of their staff in personal charity fund raising. They are also willing to send out apprentices to support projects in the local community. Councillor Kenyon reported the start of a scheme for people to work in other peoples' gardens, sharing the produce and agreeing access etc. Sadly the North Tupsley Action Group has folded although a new judo club has started up in the area. Finally Balfour Beatty have agreed that a local person can repaint road signs using enamel they supply.

(Councillor North left the meeting at 7.25 pm)

**CD2013/14.112 COMMUNITY ROAD SHOW**

Upcoming venues were noted for information. Noting the pressure on officers especially around April and May, these will need to be well supported by members, who have previously agreed to support appearances in their wards. Councillors Nichols and Kenyon will cover the putting up and taking down of the equipment in April but some other members will need to attend too. The Town Clerk will attend the River Festival with Councillor Tawn on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, hopefully with the temporary events assistant if they are in post by then. The Civic and Community Development Officer will attend Belmont Pools on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**CD2013/14.113 ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING EVENT**

This was noted for information.

**CD2013/14.114 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Allotments lease, noting that this has been outstanding for some time the Clerk was asked to remind HALGS that we need their response.

Greenway Project. Noted that this is not progressing at present and can be removed as an item until there is something to discuss.

Strategic review of events, suggestions for contents and items for discussion to the Town Clerk.

**CD2013/14.115 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 6 pm in the Council Chamber

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Signed .....

Date .....