**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 10th November 2015**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present :** The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Boulter, Bushkes, Edwards, Hey, Kenyon, Lloyd-Hayes, Michael and Stevens

**CD2015/16.55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker, Hall and Rone and from Councillor Hey for late arrival.

**CD2015/16.56 SUBSTITUTIONS**

None

**CD2015/16.57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**CD2015/16.58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and

**RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings of 29th September and 2nd November (Grants) be approved as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chairman.**

**CD2015/16.59 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CLOSE HOUSE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LOCAL AREA**

The Town Clerk presented an update report following some correspondence from the owners of Gilbeys and Hotter Shoes and a meeting with them and local police concerning Close House. Members noted the information and asked that the issue of whether the alleyway serving Close House and Gilbeys was in fact a public right of way be followed up.

**CD2015/16.60 CLOSE HOUSE COMMUNITY GRANT FUNIDNG APPLICATION**

The Chairman welcomed Ben Lea from Close House who introduced Carla and Kelsey who would be assisting him with the presentation. It was noted that the area of ground referred to in the application is entirely surrounded by buildings with no street access. No–one’s access or egress would be impeded by using it as an outdoor area for Clsoe House clients. The project will in effect turn a window into a door way. In answers to questions Mr Lea confirmed that the owners (St Peter’s PCC) are completely behind the project and have given permission for the alterations. Edinburgh Wool Mill, who own one of the blank walls facing the space, are also very happy to support it and will allow a mural to be painted. After presenting the application Mr Lea and his supporters left the meeting.

Councillor Hey asked for clarification of the element covering fees and consultancy which it was noted was the only place on the form that Close House could show the builder’s labour charge as opposed to materials. It was felt that this was within the wording and intention of the council’s grants policy.

It was the proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by the Mayor and

**RESOLVED That the full amount sought of £3,540 be awarded to be paid in two instalments for materials and labour on presentation of verified invoices from the builder.**

**CD2015/16.61 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES REVEUE SUPPORT**

The Chairman invited Councillor Edwards to present his proposal. Councillor Edwards raised his concern that whole generous in providing grants for equipment and facilities to enable local groups to manage and improve public open spaces the City Council had not so far supported on going revenue costs of maintaining these spaces. As services declined from Herefordshire Council, and there was some concern that the recent reinstatement of grounds maintenance might provide temporary given that council’s financial position, this was becoming a more pressing concern. It would be a shame if hard work and community effort to get things started was not supported by on-going funding. Hiring equipment for short-term use or bringing in a local contractor from time to time might be a more economical use of money than buying specialist equipment and then trying to share it with the issues of transport, storage and insurance.

Several members shared their experiences of working with local groups who are seeking to improve open spaces and then maintain the standards they have reached. It was clear that different solutions had worked depending on the availability of equipment, support from local providers and the numbers of volunteers. There was no fixed answer to all situations.

The Clerk clarified the historic use of grants for capital items and ward budgets for small items such as litter pickers, and the availability of some equipment owned by the City Council that had been used for one off events.

After discussing several options, none of which were formally proposed and seconded it was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor LLoyd-Hayes and

**RESOLVED That in considering the budget for 2016/2017 the Finance and Policy Committee be asked to present to Council the following principles**

**That ward budgets be increased to £3,000 and that use be extended to cover the maintenance of public open spaces within each ward. This figure will also apply to the two member wards, whilst Racecourse will be doubled to £600 noting its smaller size.**

**That funds not spent can be carried forward to support further grounds maintenance projects in a subsequent financial year.**

**CD2015/16.62 COMMUNITY LED PLAN SURVEY**

The Civic and Community Development Officer presented an update on progress with the survey which is now live on the web site and was distributed in hard copy at the Tupsley fireworks. Members were asked to encourage their constituents to respond, preferably on line as that enable automatic sifting of the data. Members also noted that it would be beneficial for them to take it to schools.

**CD2015/16.63 ROADSHOW**

The Civic and Community Development Officer reported that she had attended the Tupsley fireworks with the roadshow which had gone very well and attracted lots of attention. As this was the last outing for the year and had been extremely muddy the kit was now in need of professional cleaning and some repairs which would be undertaken before the Spring.

**CD2015/16.64 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

CCTV – it was noted that the concern about funding had abated since the Police and Crime Commissioner had announced three years of support. The Clerk will liaise with the BID Management Team about trying to bring all local networks onto a single control and surveillance system to improve effectiveness.

**CD2015/16.65 LATE ITEM – ROADSHOW EQUIPMENT**

The Committee agreed to consider this item, a note about which had bene circulated by email three days before the meeting, but after the rest of the agenda had been despatched.

The Civic and Community Development Officer presented some pictures of trailers and vehicles that could be used to store and move the roadshow reducing dependence on private cars and the goodwill of individual members. It was noted that a trailer was only a partial solution as it still had to be towed. The Town Clerk, in answer to a question, confirmed that there was a community led plan budget which had not been used because of the decision not to engage an external consultation company for the city led plan and that resources were therefore available to cover the purchase of a vehicle. He added that a final decision was not sought at this stage, more work needed to be done on costs and options, but members had an opportunity to say now if they felt this was a poor idea to prevent time being wasted on it.

It was proposed by Councillor Steven, seconded by Councillor Bushkes and

**RESOLVED That the idea of purchasing a motorised vehicle to store and move the roadshow and to provide a display facility had merit and should be pursued.**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20 pm

Date of Next meeting 2nd February 2015 at 6 pm

Signed ………………………………………….

Date ………………………….