

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 6 pm in the Council Offices

Present: Cllrs Baker, Bushkes (Chair), Butler, Edwards, Hey (Vice Chair), Lloyd-Hayes, Stevens and Tillet

In attendance: Steve Kerry, Town Clerk; Tracy Morriss, Deputy Town Clerk

At the start of the meeting the Chair reminded all members of the fire evacuation procedure.

CD2018/19.42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Kenyon and Griffiths.

CD2018/19.43 SUBSTITUTIONS

Noted that Cllr Baker was attending as substitute for Cllr Kenyon.

CD2018/19.44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on a shipping container for Gorsty Lane Park and made the appropriate entry in the register.

Councillor Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Country Park Supporters and made the appropriate entry in the register.

CD2018/19.45 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Edwards and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the minutes of 4th June 2018, 12th June 2018 and 23rd July 2018 are agreed as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

CD2018/19.46 GAZEBOS

The Town Clerk introduced the report and gave a brief history of how the Council had acquired these and what arrangements had been put in place for using them. Cllr Stevens added that he had seen the amount of effort needed to put up the gazebos and move the weights and he agreed it was an unreasonable demand to make of one person.

In the discussion that followed, members indicated agreement to the idea of the gazebos being passed to another organisation that could look after them and use them well, provided they were available free of charge to other community groups and could be borrowed back by the Council. No groups other than the Friends of Castle Green were identified as a possible recipient.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Lloyd-Hayes and

RESOLVED: That subject to satisfactory insurance being in place, the Committee authorises the Town Clerk to agree terms with the Friends of Castle Green to receive the gazebos as a gift from the Council subject to a requirement that the Council may borrow them back free of charge and that other community groups are offered the same facility subject to them returning the gazebos in a satisfactory condition.

CD2018/19.47 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – COUNTRY PARK SUPPORTERS

The Clerk reported that he had drafted a Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Country Park Supporters as requested by an earlier meeting of the Committee and in the light of a request for long term financial support. The CPS Group had agreed to the draft terms and a signed copy was presented to the Committee for final approval.

Councillor Edwards reported the thanks of the Group for the grant and the agreement, and that the CPS Group had been successful in another bid for external funding which had enabled the purchase and construction of a secure metal shed for key equipment.

The Town Clerk clarified the meaning of “force majeure” as referred to in the agreement as being an external force which prevented either party from complying with their obligations such as a major weather catastrophe.

It was then proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Bushkes and

RESOLVED: That the terms as presented be agreed.

In accordance with his earlier declaration of a non-pecuniary interest Councillor Edwards asked for his abstention to be noted.

CD2018/19.48 SHIPPING CONTAINERS FOR COMMUNITY USE

Councillor Hey described the background to the issues with possible transfer of containers from one site to another and the Clerk provided a history of where containers had been placed and for whom. Members felt it was important that community groups were supported with the provision of containers but that the final ownership must remain with the Council and some safeguards needed to be introduced in terms of a short lease with a peppercorn rental which would protect the Council’s position.

Stipulations should cover responsibility for insurance, ensuring the ground was protected if the containers are not on hardstanding and ensuring use and location was strictly in accordance with planning consent so that there was no liability to the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Edwards and

RESOLVED: That a shipping container be purchased for the use of the Gorsty Lane Football Club at a cost of £2,445-00 plus VAT.

That a lease agreement be sought from the Group and the Bobblestock Community Association (or their successors) in respect of the containers delivered to them, and for all future containers.

That the lease should include clauses on reversionary ownership, compliance with planning, ground protection and use.

In accordance with her earlier declaration of a non-pecuniary interest Councillor Hey asked that her abstention be noted.

CD2018/19.49 HIGH TOWN AND CITY CENTRE STREET SCENE MEETING

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she had found the meeting quite inspiring with a very collaborative mood addressing some issues that have been raised previously through Team Hereford. It was pointed out that in response to recent emails, Facebook comments and a letter to the Hereford Times from a local business proprietor, the Town Hall’s receptionist does clean

the frontage regularly especially after weddings which generate confetti. It was not his job to do this and the personal nature of some of the remarks about council staff had been unreasonable, although the concern that the Town Hall as a major building in the city centre should be in a presentable condition was shared. The Clerk was asked to write to Herefordshire stressing the mess caused by confetti and suggesting that the wedding charge should include the cost of spot cleaning to make sure this did not litter the frontage.

Seagull bags had proved successful where they had been issued and need to be more widely used, including issuing to businesses not in street trading agreements with Herefordshire but using other providers, and to residential users.

The Herefordshire Council cabinet member had asked what the standard was for Hereford in Bloom judging day, when the city looked impressive, compared to other days in the year when it does not. The Committee felt that as a destination we are keen to market, we would wish to see the city centre at “judging” standard as the norm.

There was some discussion about the BID who had been having difficulties recently with providing a consistent level of service using the Glutton and the gum sucker machines. This had been very disappointing. The Youth Council have made a number of points which will be made at the next meeting, including lighting building frontages, live music and entertainment and other events to bring new life into the High Town area.

It was noted that the next meeting to discuss this matter with the cabinet member would be 5th October and if possible, the Council would be represented by a member as well as officers.

CD2018/19.50 REPLACEMENT BINS

It was noted that this item refers to bins not benches as described in the title of the report. The Clerk reminded members of the history of trying to replace the worn bins in Churchill Gardens and the high cost proposed by Balfour Beatty for doing the work. A fresh and much more competitive proposal had been received, and specification and cost details were included in the agenda.

Members briefly considered the option of plastic bins but were clearly of the view that metal bins are a better investment as they are more durable, particularly that they are more fire resistant. The Clerk was asked to look into obtaining aerosol paint in the correct shade for covering graffiti on the bins, here and in other locations as prompt removal tends to discourage an accumulation.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Stevens and

RESOLVED: That the Committee authorises the Clerk to order four new metal bins for Churchill Gardens from Terry Griffiths for £1,350 including installation and excluding VAT, and that the Clerk should also make enquiries about suitable aerosol paint for covering graffiti.

CD2018/19.51 DOG FOULING SIGNS AND GRITTING

Members considered that warning signs about dog fouling are of little effect without enforcement action and Herefordshire’s resources are completely inadequate in this regard. Positive signs thanking people for disposing of their dog’s waste do seem to have more of an effect and should be encouraged. A few well publicised prosecutions work wonders in raising levels of awareness, provided they are repeated from time to time.

There was some support for grit walkers, along the lines the Clerk had discussed with Clive Hall of Herefordshire Council, although there would need to be clear evidence somewhere that this had worked before it could be taken any further. Grit bins were too often broken and allowed to fall into disrepair and inevitably when there was a heavy snowfall the grit disappears quickly with little obvious community benefit. It was also noted that keeping the highway safe was a statutory duty of Herefordshire Council and ought not to fall to the City's council tax payers to support twice.

Members recorded the following opinions to be borne in mind in future discussions:

Opposition to negative or threatening signs, grit walkers and grit bins.

Support for positive signs thanking people for cleaning up after their dogs.

Support for poo bag dispensers on the bins or in other locations such as park entrances.

CD2918/19.52 SKATE PARK PLINTHS

The Committee acknowledged that this had been great success, the unveiling had been well attended and thanked the Deputy Town Clerk and Cllr Stevens for their efforts in bringing this to fruition. The contractors who had contributed their services without charge would receive letters of thanks from the Mayor. The Art College sculpture will go to Rotherwas after its six months on the site and the SHYPP have a metal tree which will be a suitable replacement once sharp edges have been smoothed for safety. Bolts and fixtures will cost around £200-00 which will be met from the funds for street scene and open spaces which the Clerk can draw on, up to £500-00. The bolts will be of a high quality, anti-vandal type.

The Committee noted the report with approbation.

CD2018/19.53 SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the leaflet has been very well received and several outlets have needed their supply topping up. It is available from the TiC, All Saints café, the Library and the Cathedral. It has attracted coverage in regional and national magazines and through BBC Hereford and Worcester.

This was noted with thanks.

CD2018/19.53 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the following item involved the disclosure of commercially sensitive information it was proposed by Councillor Lloyd-Hayes, seconded by Councillor Stevens and

RESOLVED: That pursuant to the Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) that the press and public be excluded and the business of the Committee treated as confidential.

CD2018/19.54 MOBILE APPLICATION FOR THE SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Deputy Town Clerk presented two proposals for the provision of a mobile phone based application to provide a spoken guided tour for the sculpture trails. Members considered the relative merits of each offer and that there was sufficient difference between them to make a like for like comparison on costs not possible. More consideration by a small working group was required to formulate a detailed recommendation.

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

RESOLVED: That a working group of Councillors Bushkes, Hey and Stevens supported by the Deputy Town Clerk be tasked with evaluating the bids in detail and bringing a reasoned recommendation for action to the next meeting of this Committee.

The confidential business having been concluded it was then proposed by Councillor Bushkes, seconded by Councillor Lloyd-Hayes and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be reopened to the press and public.

CD2018/19.55 TOWN HALL – ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The Clerk presented some brief notes on the principle of identifying a building as an asset of community value, which meant that before it could be sold an opportunity had to be given to the local community to buy it and full consultation must take place before planning permission can be given for any change of use.

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Edwards and

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Herefordshire Council and apply for the Town Hall to be recognised and registered as an asset of community value.

CD2018/19.56 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Hereford in Bloom annual report, including details of the award and their community activities.

CCTV update on control room visit (members who have not yet done so are urged to contact Debbie Turner (nee Stringer) of Herefordshire Council to arrange a visit before the next meeting.

Park equipment (requested by Cllr Hey)

Sculpture trail mobile application, report of the working group.

Christmas Lights switch on, to review after the switch on this year including the possibility of another day in the week and the involvement of Reach Radio as an alternative to the current provider of the entertainment.

CD2018/19.57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6th November at 6 pm at the Town Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed

Dated