

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

via Zoom and live streamed to Facebook

**TUESDAY 09 JUNE 2020 at 6 pm**

The meeting took place under the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 Sections Four and Five.

**PRESENT:** Madam Mayor, Cllr Hey and Cllrs Boulter, Hornsey, Kenyon, Oliver, Powell, Stevens, Tillett and Tyler

(Cllr Foxtton joined the meeting at 18.44)

**Also Present:** The Deputy Town Clerk and the Committees, Events and Contracts Officer Richard Williams, representative of Bobblestock Bulls

**CD2020/21.01 The Chairman confirmed that all members of the Committee were able to take part in this meeting unless they have sent their apologies in advance.**

**CD2020/21.02 The Chairman confirmed that the public were able to view and hear this meeting.**

**CD2020/21.03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wilcox.

**CD2020/21.04 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**  
There were no appointments of substitute members.

**CD2020/21.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were no declarations of interest under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda at this point in the meeting.

**CD2020/21.06 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
Members received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 04 February 2020 and the Community

Development Grants meeting on the 10 February 2020. The Chairman will duly sign, initial and date the minutes as approved.

## **CD2020/21.07 COMMUNITY GRANTS**

### **a. Three Choirs Festival – Grant awarded in March 2020 – Community Projects**

Council ratified the Committees' recommendation to award funding for a host of community work to be carried from the Autumn of 2020 to the run up of the Three Choirs Festival in 2021. The festival is now postponed to 2022 and so a request to carry over the funding award to commence the work in the Autumn of 2021 was considered by Members.

Cllr Hornsey commented that this was an excellent project and good value for money and proposed that Members agree to allow the organisation to hold the funding award over to 2021 when the project could commence.

This was echoed by Cllr Tillett who also added that the organisation were delivering the project in line with the City Council's request and he seconded Cllr Hornsey's proposal.

Cllr Hey echoed the words of the above two Cllrs and the Chairman put the proposal to the vote.

It was unanimously

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To allow the organisation to hold the funding award over to 2021 when the project could commence.**

### **b. Growing Local – Grant awarded in Feb 2020 – Variation of use**

Members considered approval of the variation of use for a grant awarded to Growing Local in February 2020.

Cllr Stevens informed Members he had seen the first round of packs put together by Growing Local and disseminated to various households in the community and the excellent work the group are doing. Cllr Stevens proposed the variation of use as laid out in the email correspondence that was circulated to members with the agenda.

Cllr Tillett seconded Cllr Stevens proposal adding, he has also seen the excellent work this group are delivering and praised Growing Local for all they are doing and how they have adapted their project to fit in with the restrictions of the current crisis.

Cllr Tyler echoed the words of the above two Cllrs.

Cllr Hornsey declared a non-pecuniary interest as she had received a couple of the packs sent out by the group, which were excellent and enjoyed by her children, so made the decision not to vote on this item for that reason.

The Chairman put the proposal to the vote; 7 Members in favour, 1 abstention.

- c. **Bobblestock Bulls – Replacement Mower – Request for £3,000**  
Members considered the grant application attached to the agenda for the release of £3,000 for a replacement mower.

Members questions to Mr Williams in relation to the grant application covered the following points:

- Concerns about security and what measures the group have put in place to stop such a theft happening again.
- Did the group have insurance.

Mr Williams informed Members that the locks on the storage units had been up graded to high standard security locks. He explained that if insurance proved too expensive to keep the mower on site then an alternative safe location was available to store the mower and a trailer would be purchased to enable the mower to be kept off site. He added that the issue with regards to not having insurance was due to the fact that the group did not have an insurable interest before but now they have a signed agreement/licence with Herefordshire Council the group would be able to obtain insurance.

Cllr Powell proposed awarding the £3,000 funding for the purchase of a new mower. This was seconded by Cllr Hey and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To award £3,000 for the purchase of a new mower.**

**CD2020/21.08 COMMUNITY FOOD SUPPORT AND FUTURE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT**

Members received and considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

There were no questions from Members in relation to the report.

The Chairman asked the Deputy Town Clerk to read out the recommendations from the report for Members to vote on which she did.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the recommendations, seconded by Cllr Tyler and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee note the need to complete this piece of work to ensure future community resilience and meet the needs of its communities.**

**The Committee agree to the Deputy Town Clerk, with admin support from an Officer/s from the City Council, progressing this project.**

**The Committee note it will receive regular updates at its meetings on the progress and evaluation of this project and agreed to consider the outcomes and any future work that may be required to support the future needs of its communities.**

**The Committee welcomes the opportunity to evaluate the Council's strengths and weaknesses in co-ordinating a response with the volunteer sector to address the needs of its communities during the current crisis**

**and note this work will inform a strategy for dealing with any future crisis and will take this information in to consideration as part of relevant funding decisions which will be considered for approval by this committee.**

**To be included within the Herefordshire Council and Talk Community Governance and Project Management infrastructure to link into the wider programme of work.**

**CD2020/21.09 STREET CLEANING INITIATIVE**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr Stevens informed Members that he had several issues with the report and there were many anomalies. He mentioned the BID stickers that had been placed on the pavements in High Town in preparation for shops and market reopening, that Maylord Orchards was owned by a private group and the pending refurbishment of High Town. He also added that this did not fall in line with the Preston Model that the Council has signed up to and was uncomfortable with the report.

Members discussions further covered the following points:

- Many echoing the words of Cllr Stevens
- The cabinet Member for Herefordshire Council completely unaware of this work to be carried out
- Changes in future use of the High Town space
- Undoing the good work the BID have done
- The purchase of a machine to do deep cleans would mean a regular cleaning regime could be implemented for High Town

Cllr Kenyon proposed to reject the proposal and to look into the purchase of a machine working with the BID.

Cllr Tillett asked for clarification on what the Chair was proposing.

It was confirmed that the proposal was to look at costs of machines and options at this stage and to bring a report back to the committee.

Cllr Oliver seconded Cllr Kenyon's proposal and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**The Town Clerk be authorised to look into the cost of deep cleaning machines and options for working with the BID to support a cleaning regime.**

**CD2020/21.10 RESURFACING OF BMX TRACK AT WESTFALING STREET**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk.

The discussion by Members covered the following:

- Only purpose-built BMX track in the City, excellent amenity
- There is only one quote for this work, should we not have 3

- When the track was done before it cost a lot more than the quote currently provided
- Request for confirmation of the Council's Financial Regulations with regards to obtaining quotes
- Concerns regarding one quote, on first name terms between the said Member and the person being proposed to carry out the work
- Cllr Boulter informed Members that the person who has offered to complete the work has completed work on the track previously and as an example of value for money quoted that BBLP wanted £3,000 to put three benches into Westfaling Street Park.
- These people are experts in the field

Following the opportunity to check the Financial Regulations, the Committee, Events and Contracts Officer read out the section in the councils Financial Regulations with regards obtaining quotes.

Cllr Kenyon from the Chair proposed the release of £3,200 to complete the work.

Cllr Tillett informed Members that as the quote is for more than £3,000, it is £3,200, there is a concern over the lack of information and the council needs to be ensuring it is following correct procedures.

Cllr Kenyon then proposed £2,999.

It was then questioned how the group would make up the shortfall and Cllr Kenyon suggested the group could fundraise.

There was no seconder for either of Cllr Kenyon's proposals, so he asked Members for another proposal.

Cllr Tillett confirmed the City Council is very supportive of the project and proposed the council obtains a further two quotes for the work.

This was seconded by Cllr Hornsey.

Cllr Oliver asked who would be responsible for the contract – HCC.

Cllr Kenyon suggested awarding the Town Clerk delegated powers to get additional quotes and authorise the work.

#### **Cllr Foxtan joined the meeting at 18.44.**

Cllr Tillett confirmed the words of his proposal as follows: Hereford City Council is supportive of this project and in order to move forward and comply with the Council's Financial Regulations, the Town Clerk gains two further quotes and is authorised to go ahead with the preferred tender.

This was seconded by Cllr Hornsey and put to the vote with 8 in favour, one abstention.

Cllr Foxton was unable to vote on the item as she had only just arrived at the meeting and had not been present whilst the item was being discussed.

**RESOLVED**

**Hereford City Council is supportive of this project and in order to move forward and comply with the Council's Financial Regulations, the Town Clerk gains two further quotes and is authorised to go ahead with the preferred tender.**

**CD2020/21.11 UPDATE ON SEAGULL CONTRACT**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr Stevens informed Members he had been doing some digging on this matter and it was up to the Unitary Authority to lobby DEFRA and to ask what the solution is to the issue.

Members comments covered the following:

- Going to lose all the good work that has been done so far to control the seagull population
- Need to write to the MP, DEFRA and the general public
- Need to maintain our beautiful City, how do we do this if we cannot control the gulls
- Seagulls are aggressive
- Before the seagulls we had pigeons
- Sympathy for the gulls and their tough life cycle

Cllr Stevens proposed the Town Clerk writes to the MP and DEFRA with regards to the matter.

This was seconded and 9 agreed in favour. Cllr Oliver abstained.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Town Clerk writes to the MP and DEFRA with regards to the matter.**

**CD2020/21.12 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members noted and/or identify items to be discussed at future meetings.

- **King George's Playing Fields** – To receive a report by the Parks and Open Spaces Working Party
- **Website Progress**
- **Climate and Environment Working Party** – To receive a report on progress to date.
- **Cycle Track Project**
- **City Centre refurbishment and attracting people back into the City**
- **Seagull Contract**
- **Towns Fund Board**
- **Government High Street Regeneration Fund**

**CD2020/21.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

TUESDAY 07 JULY 2020 – Routine Meeting – 6 pm

MONDAY 20 JULY 2020 – Grants Meeting – 10 am

There being no further business the Chair, Cllr Kenyon, called the meeting to a close at 19.01