

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD, BURNTWOOD ON
TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans [in the Chair]

Councillors Banevicius, Birch, D Ennis, L Ennis, Flanagan, Gittings, Greensill, Ho, Loughbrough Rudd, Norman, M Place, R Place, Tapper, Taylor, Westwood, Willis-Croft and Woodward

In attendance

G Hunt, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

County Councillor Cox

County Councillor Wilcox

Two members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Bishop, Brown, Bullock and Kirkham.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

52. MINUTES

The Chair reminded Members that they were being asked to comment solely on the accuracy of the Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 July 2021 [Minute Nos. 38-49] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

53. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair read out the following statement:

"We all know that last weekend was unfortunately awful weather wise, which meant we had to cancel the picnic, but for Burntwood Town Council it was successful in other ways.

On Saturday there was a stall holder who had made a large number of lovely cakes to sell at the event, but obviously was unable to do so. As she was going to be out of pocket through no fault of her own, the Town Council purchased them and decided to hand them out to some of the Burntwood Be A Friend volunteers.

I am grateful to those Councillors who came, made phone calls and delivered cakes.

Both the cake maker and the recipients were really grateful and there have been many positive comments on social media expressing their appreciation of the gesture.

Then on Sunday we held the market, which was a pilot and was very successful. There was a really good turnout, and the Town Council is responding to feedback, assessing the opening hours, and writing a report for September. The public response has been very positive so we can build on this and look to even greater participation next time on the 12 September, when we hope more of the shops can be encouraged to open as I understand those that did this time fared very well.

At the last meeting we had a presentation from Crimestoppers, who do excellent community work. As a result, we are going to make a £100 donation through our grant system to them. This will be done via Councillor D Ennis under his power to act as Chair of Community and Partnerships.

Finally, we all know that this is a crucial week for all our young people who will be receiving their exam results. This is an exciting time for them, but also an anxious time. We hope they have been successful and are able to move on to whatever the future holds for them, particularly as it has been such a difficult time over many months and with so much uncertainty. However, for those who have not done quite as well as they had hoped, it is never the end of the road and many will blossom in the future and achieve great satisfaction, so on behalf of the Town Council we wish them all well."

54. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Birch referred to Minute No. 5 - Planning Applications [g] and explained that the application should refer to 68 Chase Road and not 68 Chase Terrace.

Councillor Woodward referred to Minute No. 5 - Planning Applications [e] and in particular the comments made by Committee Members in respect of the consultation launched by Bromford Housing in March 2021 and the fact that no information was available regarding the results of that consultation. She stated that the application for residential development on land off Milestone Way goes against the Local Plan and the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan. She felt that the results of the consultation were probably not favourable and that is why they were not available. She asked the District Councillors present if they could follow up on this matter when they next meet with Bromford Housing. It was hoped that in the future Bromford Housing would work in partnership with the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Norman, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 20 July 2021 [Minute Nos. 1-5] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

55. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None received.

56. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FROM 02 JULY TO 30 JULY 2021

Councillor Taylor referred to the payment made to Much Ado About Insurance in respect of the summer picnic and asked whether the Town Council obtained single cover insurance for each of their events. Councillor D Ennis explained that the Town Council obtains insurance for all of their events and that currently there was a claim being made for the cancellation of the summer picnic due to adverse weather.

Councillor R Place suggested looking at a policy which covered say 3/4 events per year which may be more cost effective.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the payments from 02 July to 30 July 2021 in the sum of £18,141.16 be approved.

57. OLD MINING COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS

Councillor Birch referred to the tendering process and that this should include consideration of the ongoing management costs. The Town Clerk confirmed that the ongoing management costs would be considered as part of the assessment of the tenders.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor Birch, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk be authorised to seek quotations for the replacement of the intruder alarm system and the provision of a mobile phone connection for the fire alarm.

58. SPEED INDICATION DEVICES

Councillor R Place explained that Hammerwich Parish Council had recently installed two SID's [one on Highfields Road and one on Hospital Road]. They had chosen to install solar powered units, displaying vehicle speed and a green smiley face for compliant drivers and a red angry face for drivers over the limit. Speed Watch has recorded a reduction of 30% in speed and a particular marked reduction in top end speeds. As part of Hammerwich Parish Council's Road Safety Initiative, two more SID's are being purchased under their capital projects programme. The units have a capital outlay of just under £2,500 each, inc. VAT and carriage and the installation of posts by Amey are £500.

Councillor Birch referred to the Accident Analysis System data and felt that there was not a significant issue to justify the cost, as SID's do not solve the issue of "boy racers" and there is no enforcement with these devices. He felt that better signage and working in partnership with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership would be more cost effective.

Councillor Taylor referred to the SID installed by The Triangle in the Parish of Hammerwich and stated that the Town Council should keep their SIDs as a reminder but with an option of replacing them with solar powered units. He stated that there are complaints on social media even though the Town Council has not received any complaints from the public.

Councillor Norman stated that SIDs do remind people of the speed limits and that more effective signage is needed, however, Members needed more say in where to locate the SIDs and signage and more evidence was needed whether for or against.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council can apply to Staffordshire County Council, as Highway Authority, who have the discretion to work with Town Councils on locations and also have access to the data.

Councillor Willis-Croft referred to e-scooters on Stables Way and Milestone Way.

Councillor Tapper felt that more speed limit signage was needed and that the solar powered unit at The Triangle was quite effective, however the Town Council needed evidence led information.

Councillor Ho felt that members of the public do not normally speed and that the green smiley face located at The Triangle was working well.

Councillor R Place further explained that the Community Speed Watch Team had monitored the two roads namely Highfields Road and Hospital Road for months gathering the evidence and the Town Council needed to do some analysis of the roads.

Councillor Flanagan felt that as this was public money there was very little evidence to justify the cost and the Town Council needed better evidence before they could go out and purchase the devices.

Councillor D Ennis explained that there was still a maintenance cost to solar powered units and that he felt that the evidence was not strong enough at the moment. With regard to social media, he would urge that members of the public should report all issues to the Police and this data can then be used to determine the deployment of road safety measures across the town.

Councillor Woodward informed Members that Hammerwich Parish Councillor Mr King had spoken about SIDs under the Public Forum part at the Planning Advisory Group held on 04 August 2021. This would be an ongoing discussion. She referred to the Accident Analysis System data and highlighted the fatalities [of which there was 3] and in particular Springhill Road where there was already expensive speed calming measures installed.

Councillor Woodward informed Members that Staffordshire County Council had now withdrawn their support for SIDs and that more signage/measures could be looked at but was mindful of too much street clutter.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a show of hands [14 For and 3 Abstentions] it was

RESOLVED That the Town Council, based on the current information available, does not support reinstatement of the SIDs; that the Town Council need to base any decision to reinstate [e.g., via a current proposal for a CIL grant] on further evidence, including evidence of their effectiveness; that at a future point if SIDs are reinstated, local Members will have input on

where such devices are sited; that the Town Council refer the matter to Burntwood's County Councillors with a request to monitor any new information on speeding in Burntwood and its impact and report back; that the Town Council lobby the Safer Roads Partnership and OPFCC on the need for enforcement; and that further information will be sought including on the possible retrofitting of solar panels to the current SIDs and the possibility of improving and increasing signage.

59. HELPING BURNTWOOD TO BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

Councillor Evans informed Members that a meeting of the Dementia Friendly Burntwood Working Group which consisted of members from both the Labour and Conservative Groups and members from community groups met on 19 July 2021 to discuss in detail the proposals put forward by Ideas Alliance. At the meeting everyone present had unanimously supported the proposals.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the cost to the Town Council of undertaking this study would be £8,400.

Councillor R Place asked whether or not there were any other sources of funding available, and the Town Clerk said not at this moment in time and that the Town Council needed to move forward on this matter.

Councillor Ho referred to Lichfield District Council's Community Project Fund which has £20,000 available funding.

Councillor Woodward informed Members that a new campaign to help tackle loneliness in Staffordshire had been launched. The new Let's Beat Loneliness Together campaign by Staffordshire County Council will help raise awareness of the issue and promote the services available to those affected by it. The campaign will also support those individuals or volunteers who want to do something themselves to help reduce loneliness in their local community.

In respect of other funding sources, Councillor Woodward referred to the Councillor Local Community Fund launched by Lichfield District Council to help local community projects and activities. District Councillors distribute £300 each year to community groups in their area [between 12 July and 30 November 2021].

Councillor Birch referred to the opportunity to explore publicity opportunities.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Gittings, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint Ideas Alliance to carry out the community engagement project and approve the allocation of £8,400 [including VAT] from the capital reserve to be used to pay for this project.

60. STAFFING

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk be authorised to recruit two Cemetery Gate Keepers and a Cleaner.

[The Meeting closed at 6:53 pm]

Signed

Date