

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD, BURNTWOOD ON
TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans [in the Chair]

Councillors Birch, Bullock, D Ennis, L Ennis, Flanagan, Gittings, Greensill, Kirkham, 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

One member of the public

PUBLIC REALM WORKS AT SANKEY'S CORNER

Councillor Evans explained that the public realm works presentation would not be taking place tonight due to Covid-19.

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Banevicius, Bishop, Brown and Ho.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Woodward declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 [update on income and expenditure compared to budget] as it refers to Church Street car park [Chasewater Friends].

63. 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 D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 August 2021 [Minute Nos. 50-60] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

64. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair read out the following statement:

"The market last Sunday was very successful and the survey response was very positive. The weather was kind to us and the stalls did well as the footfall was good. The artisan bread stall and the cake stall did particularly well again as did the cheese stall.

Our Town Council stall was busy and a number of Councillors helped to run it and conduct the surveys. Numerous people took patterns and posters towards our important dementia friendly project and were very interested in our aim to make Burntwood a Dementia Friendly Town.

The market itself shows we have responded to the public request and our aim towards making a Better Burntwood.

Our important Dementia Friendly Town project is moving ahead. We had a good zoom meeting last week with Ideas Alliance, the company commissioned to help us to develop and highlight it and it also included Caroline Bruno who is the Scheme Manager from MHA Communities here in Burntwood. The plan is that Ideas Alliance will be communicating with people with dementia and their carers so that before Christmas there will be a display of their photographs and findings around the town. Caroline Bruno will also be applying for grant funding for the sensory garden in the grounds of the Old Mining College and you may be aware MHA Communities run the dementia groups there.

We have already received a number of knitted forget-me-knots, which is the flower for dementia and other items suitable for display and we know others are being produced.

Various businesses, shops, churches and other organisations have also been contacted for help, including requesting donations of materials, money or raffle prizes, so if anybody knows of anyone who may be interested in sponsoring the scheme in any way, please get in touch with me or Carole Payne at the Old Mining College. G E Collis and Sons Limited have already offered some decking offcuts and framing offcuts in order to make the planters."

65. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Flanagan asked the following question:

"A number of Burntwood residents have reported they are receiving a particularly sporadic postal service at present. While we were aware in the height of the pandemic that a large percentage of postal workers were off work through Covid-19 or by isolating, I am currently unaware of any specific issues in relation to a delayed service. While I note this is not specifically within the remit of Burntwood Town Council, looking after our constituents needs is. Can I therefore ask the Leader if, as a council, we can approach the postal service to ascertain if they are having any operational problems/issues that may cause delays to the delivery of hospital appointments and other urgent post for our constituents and local businesses?"

Councillor Woodward made the following response:

She explained that even though it was not directly in our remit, if it was a concern to residents, it was a concern to the Town Council. We could use lobbying powers on behalf of the residents.

She stated that she had written earlier in the year regarding this problem however she was happy to write again.

Councillor Woodward stated that Government figures show that Covid-19 cases are increasing every day and Royal Mail's key targets are: first class mail, a minimum of 93 per cent delivered the next working day and second class mail a minimum of 98.5 per cent delivered within three working days. However, if resourcing issues, associated self-isolation and safety measures prevent this, they will deliver at least every other day. It's only in extreme cases, where offices are severely affected by absence levels, that this may not be possible. However, there was no offices currently listed as exceptions.

AGREED That Councillor Woodward, as Leader of the Town Council, writes again to Royal Mail and reports back to a future meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Taylor asked the following question:

"I'm sure the Leader is aware of Burntwood's residents' unhappiness and anger with parts of Sankey's Corner in particular, the former Bill Stickers/The Oak public house. I know that numerous Councillors have made efforts in the past to address this. However, could I ask the Leader what actions the Council might be able to take now and in the immediate future to remedy this? Particularly with the success of Burntwood Producers' Market drawing more attention to the location."

Councillor Woodward made the following response:

She explained that even though it was not directly in our remit, it was a long-standing concern of our residents. In the past, Councillors have used Staffordshire County Council's Divisional Highways Programme/Fund to repair the drains outside of Heron Food. With regard to the former public house, she was, several years ago, working in partnership with Beacon Church to create some murals. She also stated that Councillor Greensill had recently tidied up the area.

Councillor Woodward stated that she, together with Councillor D Ennis, had made contact with both MAP Properties Investments Limited and the brewery in the hope of working in partnership.

As a point of clarity, Councillor R Place asked if all Members had seen sight of the questions beforehand. He was informed that as the questions were directed to the Leader, only the Leader had seen them.

66. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FROM 21 JULY TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillor R Place referred to Page 2 of the payment list and in particular the payment referring to room hire for meetings. Councillor Woodward explained that it was the intention of the Town Council to move around the town for meetings to make them more accessible to the public thus supporting and encouraging use of venues in the town. The Town Clerk explained that due to social distancing there is a limited number of venues available and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the meetings on 28 and 30 September at St John's Community Church would incur no charges and the meeting on 21 September at the Library would incur a smaller fee as the Library is a County Council building.

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

RESOLVED That the payments from 21 July to 15 September in the sum of £47,379.12 be approved.

67. ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Councillor Norman referred to paragraph 3.3 [Progress to date] and asked if the progress report could be submitted to the October meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and not the December meeting.

Councillor Birch referred to the Appendix to the report and in particular the section on objecting to New Development and explained that the Town Council must consider Planning Law when making their observations relating to planning applications.

Councillor Norman referred to the adopted Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan and in particular the Vision and read out the following statement “By 2029 Burntwood will be a positive, outward facing but internally connected and coherent community that is sustainable, successful, serves the needs of all its people and is open to opportunities and potentials that will continue to enhance and strengthen its position”. Councillor Norman also referred to Policy B5 of the Plan - Sustainability.

Following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted and that the Environment Plan be reviewed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October.

68. FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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

RESOLVED That the updated Financial Risk Assessment be noted and approve the recommended actions.

69. UPDATE ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE COMPARED TO BUDGET

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

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

70. PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP - 23 JULY 2021

Councillor Evans explained that these were draft Minutes only and the respective Committee meeting will approve the Minutes.

RESOLVED That the Minutes be received and noted.

71. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 17 AUGUST 2021

Councillor Evans explained that these were draft Minutes only and the respective Committee meeting will approve the Minutes.

Councillor Birch explained Councillor Flanagan had submitted his apologies via text message however this had not been picked up until after the meeting. This would be verified at the next Committee meeting on 21 September.

RESOLVED That the Minutes be received and noted.

[The Meeting closed at 6.29 pm]

Signed

Date