

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, CHASE TOWN, BURNTWOOD
ON WEDNESDAY 09 JANUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Stokes [in the Chair]

Councillors Bamborough, Birch, Ms Brettell, Mrs Conolly [from 6.04 pm], Mrs Constable, Ennis, Mrs Evans, Mrs Humphreys, Humphreys, Pullen, Stokes, Mrs Tranter and Mrs Woodward.

In attendance

J G Brown, Interim Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Senior Administration Officer

Three members of the public

Mr W James, Stephen Sutton Bursary

Mrs K James, Stephen Sutton Bursary

Miss C James, Stephen Sutton Bursary

Mr P James, Stephen Sutton Bursary

Mr T Chamberlin, Headteacher, Chase Terrace Technology College

STEPHEN SUTTON BURSARY AWARD

The Chairman welcomed William James and his family to the meeting. Councillor Mrs Evans as Chair of Governors at Chase Terrace Technology College stated that she was delighted that the Town Council continues to recognise the talents of young people in Burntwood.

Mr James said a massive thank you to everyone who was present and stated that the money would go towards his coaching qualification so that he may help more people achieve their goals.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Chamberlain representing Burntwood Action Group stated that he wished to advise Councillors that the Action Group have requested that Burntwood Town Council take full advantage of the Government "Regeneration the High Street" scheme. The Action Group understand that as a result of their request, contact had been made with Jonathan Percival the Economic Development Officer at Lichfield District Council, who has now advised that "expressions of interest submissions for the fund must be by the 22 March 2019". As this was a Burntwood Action Group initiative they would appreciate being involved with the bid application.

The Action Group believed that in order to take advantage of this scheme, Burntwood Town Council should prepare a plan for the redevelopment of the Town Centre at Sankey's Corner and the adjacent land including Salters Meadow Health Centre and the blue hoarding site. Mr Chamberlain explained that Lichfield District Council have confirmed that this could be done as an addendum to the existing Neighbourhood Plan, without affecting the adoption process of the current Plan.

Councillor Mrs Woodward stated that the "Regeneration the High Street" scheme had been discussed at the Town Deal meeting held on Tuesday 08 January 2019 where it had been established that bids needed to be in the region of £25 million. Councillor Mrs Woodward felt that she could not foresee

Lichfield District Council being in a position to undertake this, this was more metropolitan/unitary authorities.

Councillor Mrs Woodward made reference to the High Street Innovation Fund [where £50,000 was awarded to the BBC].

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Pastor R Lewis from Emmanuel Church.

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Mrs Bacon, Mrs Banevicius, Constable [Dispensation], Drinkwater [Dispensation], Ms Fisher, Mrs Fisher, Mosson and Mrs Rigby.

Members formally received and approved Councillor Constable's request that he be granted a Leave of Absence from attendance at meetings from 09 January 2019 until the end of the municipal year.

Members formally received and approved Councillor Drinkwater's request that he be granted a Leave of Absence from attendance at meetings from 09 January 2019 until the end of the municipal year.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

63. TOWN COUNCIL: MINUTES

Councillor Mrs Woodward made reference to Minute No. 56 - Burntwood Town Deal and in particular Chasewater Friends Group and stated that there were a whole host of volunteering roles available and confirmed that the Chasewater Friends Group will be launched at 11am on Saturday 19 January 2019 in the Innovation Centre, Chasewater.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 29 November 2018 [Minute Nos. 46-60] be received and where necessary approved and adopted subject to the changes detailed above.

64. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following statement:

"It was lovely to hear that Kathy Coe from Pathway has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. She has been a Burntwood resident for many years, starting Pathway in her bedroom. Congratulations Kathy, you are so deserving of this honour.

I have a busy few months ahead, with my next fundraising event on February 23rd at St Matthews Club Burntwood. Your support would be greatly appreciated, by buying a ticket,

donating raffle prizes, or a donation to my chosen charities. All three would be fabulous! Either way, it should be a fun night listening to some nostalgic music that most of us in this room will remember, and I'm looking forward to raising lots of money."

Councillor Mrs Stokes confirmed that she would send a letter to Kathy Coe.

65. EVENTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Councillor Mrs Evans made reference to Minute No. 50 - Review of Christmas Events 2018 and agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed on the shopkeepers. Councillor Mrs Evans felt that this was an ideal opportunity to get the community more involved and to engage with the shopkeepers as she thought that originally it was the intention that the Town Council would provide guidance and possible funding with volunteers taking on the events.

Councillor Mrs Tranter confirmed that as advised at the Events Committee Meeting held on 07 January 2019 a meeting had been arranged with shopkeepers and the Procurement Management of Crown Highways for 15 January 2019.

Councillor Mrs Woodward also made reference to the shopkeepers at Sankey's Corner where grant aid support could be given so that the community could take ownership of the Christmas Festival. Councillor Mrs Tranter stated that a meeting will be arranged with shopkeepers at Sankey's Corner in due course.

Councillor Birch made reference to Minute No. 50 - Review of Christmas Events 2019 and in particular Saturday 01 December 2018 event. Councillor Birch asked if a letter had been sent to Emmanuel Church regarding the bucket shaking. Councillor Mrs Tranter confirmed that as advised at the Events Committee Meeting held on 07 January 2019 a letter had been sent to Emmanuel Church and that she had personally spoken to Pastor Lewis who had agreed that this would not happen again.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events Committee held on 03 December 2018 [Minute Nos. 47-51] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

66. PLANNING COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Councillor Birch made reference to Minute No. 35 - Planning Applications and in particular planning application 18/01556/COU - Darwin House, 49 High Street, Chasetown and stated that the decision to approve the application and others had already been made by Lichfield District Council, as Local Planning Authority [decision notice dated 11 December 2018] before being heard by the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 December 2018 [Minute Nos. 32-35] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

67. BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Councillor Birch explained to Members that he was unable to attend this meeting due to urgent family issues.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Burial Grounds Committee held on 03 January 2019 [Minute Nos. 6-11] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

68. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No Members questions were raised.

69. BURNTWOOD TOWN DEAL

Councillor Mrs Woodward stated that at the Town Deal Meeting held on 08 January 2019 a discussion had taken place regarding Bleak House Farm and confirmed that the developer were in consultation with Lichfield District Council, as Local Planning Authority and the Town Deal. Councillor Mrs Woodward explained that a vision document had been produced for potential housing development however it was noted that the Bleak House Farm site is within the Green Belt.

Councillor Mrs Woodward explained that a planning application would be submitted very soon in respect of Greenwood House with demolition expected in early summer 2019. However a second health centre was still actively being looked at.

Councillor Mrs Woodward explained that the LCP development [Retail Park] was going forward with key retailers already signed up [for example Iceland, B&M].

70. 2019/2020 BUDGET

Councillor Pullen made reference to the draft budget for 2019-2020 and thanked Mrs James, Financial Officer as the document produced was a lot easier to understand which resulted in better transparency.

Councillor Pullen made reference to cost centre 104 - Old Mining College Centre and in particular the Old Mining College Centre income [£68,650] against expenditure [£61,151] and felt that it had been a positive move by the Town Council to relocate to the Centre.

Councillor Pullen made reference to cost centre 205 - Traffic Islands and in particular the sponsorship monies now been received.

Councillor Pullen made reference to cost centre 213 - Events Committee and stated that the actual expenditure was always far less than the budget.

Councillor Mrs Evans stated that she endorsed the easier to understand breakdown of the budget layout.

Councillor Mrs Woodward also endorsed the easier to undertaken breakdown of the budget layout however she felt that the view of what the Centre is for had still not be established. Councillor Mrs Woodward pointed out that over half of the budget was spent on staffing costs and asked if this was value for money. Councillor Mrs Woodward suggested that annual staff appraisal reports should be looked at by the Personnel Committee.

Councillor Pullen stated that the Town Council was always striving for value for money.

Councillor Mrs Woodward explained to members of the public present that the figures had been gone through with a fine tooth comb by Members of the Town Council and not just agreed at this meeting.

RESOLVED That the draft budget for 2019-20 be agreed.

71. 2019/2020 PRECEPT

Councillor Pullen explained that the Band D Council Tax in the sum of £37.90 for 2018/19 will remain the same for 2019/20.

RESOLVED That a Precept of £318,690 be declared on Lichfield District Council for the 2019/2020 financial year.

72. PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE 2018/2019

Councillor Pullen explained the proposed additional expenditure for the financial year 2018/19 in the sum of £50,000 and stated that this could be invested in the community.

Play Equipment in Burntwood Park

Councillor Pullen explained that £30,000 could be transferred to Lichfield District Council for their use in providing new play equipment to be in addition to or replacement of Play Equipment currently in the Burntwood Parks. This is subject to Burntwood Town Council approving the play equipment to be installed and the location of that equipment. In addition, it will be made clear to Lichfield District Council that all monies allocated must be spent on the new play equipment and that they must fund any associated expenditure (i.e. staff costs, costs of removal etc) themselves.

Summer House/Conservatory

Councillor Pullen explained that £10,000 could be allocated for the provision of a summer house/conservatory to be installed within the garden of the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown. This structure would be intended to be in place for at least ten years and it would provide an additional source of income and is likely therefore to pay for itself over the lifetime of the next Council. This would be installed subject to the approval of Staffordshire County Council (as owner) and to any necessary building regulation or planning permissions being obtained.

Provision of Items for those deemed to be in need in the Parish of Council

Councillor Pullen explained that £10,000 could be allocated to provide for those in need in the Parish of Burntwood with applications being supported by appropriate support groups.

Councillor Mrs Evans stated as Leader of the Minority Group that no prior conversation had taken place with Councillor Pullen regarding the expenditure and felt that this item had not gone through the proper procedures [through a Committee first]. Councillor Mrs Evans stated that no costings had been provided and very limited information had been given. Councillor Mrs Evans made reference to the summer house/conservatory and in particular the fact that no on-costs had been provided [heating, size etc] and asked who was taking this forward.

Councillor Mrs Evans moved to defer this item to the next Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Pullen stated that he was more than happy for this item to go to the next Policy and Resources Committee scheduled to take place on 17 January 2019. However he felt that the expenditure should be earmarked.

Councillor Birch made reference to the provision of grit bins which had previously been discussed and felt that the play equipment in particular should be funded by Lichfield District Council.

Councillor Pullen stated that Members had lobbied Lichfield District Council [Councillor Wilcox] regarding a fair share of funding. Councillor Pullen explained to Councillor Birch that an email had been previously sent to Members regarding costings, ice-busters etc.

Councillor Mrs Woodward welcomed the idea that the money should be earmarked and discussed further at the next Policy and Resources Committee meeting. However she felt that £30,000 earmarked for play equipment would not buy much. Councillor Mrs Woodward explained that she had called for a review of capital spending at Lichfield District Council following the demise of the Friarsgate redevelopment in Lichfield leaving taxpayers with a £7.9 million bill for the failed scheme. She stated that she had now written to the Leader of Lichfield District Council, Councillor Wilcox, about the issue and he had replied to say that he would be looking at the areas of concern. Councillor Mrs Woodward felt that £10,000 for a summerhouse/conservatory as inadequate and that a strategic vision for the Centre was needed.

With regard to the £10,000 which could be allocated to provide for those in need, Councillor Mrs Woodward explained that Burntwood Lions operates a similar scheme and suggested that a grant could be given to an organisation as opposed to administering the scheme in house.

Councillor Ennis stated that no input into the proposed expenditure had been made by either himself or Members of the Labour Group and made reference to the Community Funded School Crossing Patrols and felt that the information provided was very vague.

RESOLVED That £50,000 from the 2018/19 budget be earmarked for projects within the Parish of Burntwood and that Policy and Resources Committee be asked to consider which projects should be selected for funding.

[The Meeting closed at 6:59 pm]

Signed

Date