

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, BURNTWOOD
ON MONDAY 02 DECEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor D Ennis [in the Chair]

Councillors L Ennis, Evans, Gittings, Loughbrough Rudd, M Place, Westwood, Willis-Croft and Woodward

In attendance

G Hunt, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Senior Administration Officer

Councillor D Ennis welcomed Councillor M Place to her first meeting following her co-option to the Town Council on 28 November 2019.

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Kirkham.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

37. MINUTES

Councillor Ennis informed Members that the Minutes had already been proposed by Councillor Woodward and seconded by Councillor L Ennis at the Town Council meeting held on 28 November 2019.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 11 November 2019 [Minute Nos. 26-34] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

38. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information from the minutes.

39. REVIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Swan Island

Councillor D Ennis stated that even though the Town Council has very little input into this event this is still a Town event and confirmed that Councillor Evans, as Chairman of the Town Council, had performed the official switch on of the Christmas lights. It was confirmed that the Town Council provide the Christmas tree and Councillor Evans confirmed that the lights were sponsored by Crown Cutting. Councillor Ennis stated that it was important that community groups take the lead on such events however it may be appropriate to have some discussions with the Rotary Club to further development this event. The Town Clerk suggested that a meeting with organisations involved in the Christmas events could be arranged [similar to the one being arranged for those involved in the Play in the Parks events].

Bells Lane

Councillor D Ennis stated that he felt that this event attracted a bigger crowd this year and this may have been due to the fact that the Boney Hay School choir had been integrated into the event. Councillor Woodward thanked Bromford for their help and assistance on the night.

Councillor Woodward made reference to the picket fencing around the Christmas tree in Chasetown and asked if less intrusive fencing could be provided around the Christmas trees at Bells Lane and Sankeys Corner. The Town Clerk stated that the risk assessment would be re-visited to assess if the trees are at risk. Councillor D Ennis stated that the picket fencing would be assessed at the end to see if this type of fencing is fit for purpose.

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that he had had preliminary talks with the Co-op at Morley Road and the owner of the shops to see if they would be interested in holding an event [this would be adding to the events, not taking one away]. Councillor Woodward stated that the Town Council needed to look for other partners [encourage smaller community groups].

Chasetown Event

Councillor D Ennis stated that the Chasetown event showed when big businesses come together [Cameron Homes, Chasetown Civil Engineering etc] what could be achieved. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the organisers had agreed to a minimum three more years for the Chasetown event. Councillor D Ennis stated that positive feedback had been received with over 1,500 people attending [good community spirit]. Councillor Woodward felt that this showed community engagement and that people are proud of Chasetown. Councillor Evans stated that she had spoken to Anthony Everall [former members of the Chasetown Chamber of Trade] who had been really impressed with the event.

Sankey's Corner Event

Even though it was cold, Councillor Woodward felt that the weather made the event feel very Christmassy. Councillor D Ennis stated that the Library did not give out as many presents as last year and Councillor Woodward felt that this may be due to the logistics of the queuing system.

Councillor D Ennis explained that Emmanuel Church had taken on board the comments made last year and had provided hot refreshments etc in the church.

Councillor Woodward explained that the Friends of Burntwood Library had confirmed that they had 88 chocolate advent calendars left [these could be donated to either Spark or the Foodbank], 23 foam advent clocks [which could be kept for next year] and 27 selection boxes

[these could be used for the children coming to the lantern parade at Chasewater and a couple of the foam clocks for any diary free children].

Councillor D Ennis explained that Seventeen43 Limited had confirmed that from their point of view the road closure team were excellent throughout the event, having so many Police and PCSOs in attendance was great, the new shorter layout compared to last year worked far better, the car park at Roseblade, Solicitors was ideal and the overall timings of closing off the road and the attractions arriving worked very well and to plan. The only issues were from stallholders arriving either late or wanting to leave at 6pm. Councillor D Ennis felt that more uniformity was needed for stallholders [similar to the Wakes, spaces can be agreed on a first come first serve basis].

Councillor Woodward confirmed that Councillor D Ennis had had discussions with the shopkeepers at Sankey's Corner. Councillor D Ennis stated that he had engaged with the businesses and needed the businesses to be more involved. Councillor D Ennis suggested engaging with the schools more [school choir/school band] and asked if the Library might take more control of the event.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward and seconded by Councillor Westwood and

RESOLVED That

- a. the Friends of Burntwood Library make the decision on whether to donate the 88 chocolate advent calendars to either Spark and/or the Foodbank.
- b. 27 selections boxes be used for the children coming to the lantern parade at Chasewater and any leftover foam advent clocks be kept for next year.

40. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Town Clerk made reference to Minute No. 30 - Community Grants 2019/2020 [11 November 2019 refers] and advised Members that the purpose of the report was to provide a review of the existing community grants provided by the Town Council and seek the agreement of the Committee to a consolidated scheme.

Members were advised that currently the Town Council provides three separate community based grants schemes namely the general grant aid scheme, the hardship fund and the Stephen Sutton Bursary.

Members were advised that the general grant aid scheme had been in operation for a number of years and the scheme is normally over-subscribed. The information required to support each application is the same irrespective of the complexity or cost of the proposal.

Until this year, Members were advised that the Town Council did not indicate any priority action so its funding was not targeted. However, this year priority was given to applications that added to community capacity and were from applicants who had not recently received funding from the Council [the scheme is not intended to be a source of year on year funding].

Reference was made to the hardship fund and Members were advised that this was the second year that the Town Council had made funding available for this [the fund is designed to help families who are currently facing financial challenges buy essential household items such as

fridges, cookers and carpets]. Members were advised that the fund is not widely publicised and is being delivered on behalf of the Town Council by Burntwood Lions [who have delivered a similar scheme for a number of years].

Reference was made to the Stephen Sutton Bursary which had been introduced in 2015 as a lasting tribute to Stephen's life [the Town Council had agreed to make an annual bursary available to talented young people wanting to go onto greater achievements in the Arts, Sport or Academic fields. Two annual bursaries of up to £1,000 are available and that there are two age groups namely 11-14 years and 15-19 years]. Members were advised that the bursary had not attracted the level of interest that the Town Council had hoped.

Councillor M Place made reference to pupils from Burntwood who attended schools outside of Burntwood i.e. Cardinal Griffin School in Cannock who may not be aware of the scheme [need ways of communicating with other schools]. Councillor Evans confirmed that the pupils must be resident within the Burntwood Town Council boundaries. The Town Clerk confirmed that the information could be sent to schools outside of the parish boundary so that pupils who lived in Burntwood would be aware of the bursary.

Councillor Evans asked if the school consultation was a joint one or individual one as a spirit of co-operation between the schools is needed. It was confirmed that it would be a separate consultation.

Members were advised that the current grant aid arrangements needed to be refreshed [whilst the principle of supporting community activity remains valid] the application forms do not distinguish between small and large schemes; the general grant aid scheme is not targeted and is seen by many local groups as a source of year on year funding; the Stephen Sutton Bursary has a very low application rate and better promotion is needed to increase community awareness.

Members were advised that to maximise the benefits of the funding it was suggested that the three grants are consolidated to allow the Town Council, whilst maintaining the aims of the individual grants, to have greater freedom to respond to need and community responses.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward and seconded by Councillor Evans and

RESOLVED That

- a. the general grant aid scheme, the hardship fund and the Stephen Sutton Bursary be consolidated into the Better Burntwood Fund [the hardship fund be renamed community support fund].
- b. the current rates of funding for each component of the Better Burntwood Fund be:
 - i. Pot 1 Community Project [small community projects ranging from £100 to £500 and not to require match funding] £5,000
 - ii. Pot 2 Essential Community Services [to support the initiation or safeguarding of community provided services] £10,000
 - iii. Community Support Fund [delivered by Burntwood Lions] £10,000
 - iv. Stephen Sutton Bursary £2,000

- c. the Town Clerk consults with Chase Terrace Technology College and Erasmus Darwin Academy Schools Councils regarding the future of the Stephen Sutton Bursary and how best the bursary can be used to support young people.

41. INFORMATION OR ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor D Ennis made reference to the Burntwood Wakes and the date suggested was Saturday 11 July 2020. Councillor Woodward felt that the Town Council needed to think carefully on what the Town Council gave for free and what is subsidised [i.e. funfair rides]. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that he had already had initial discussions with the funfair company and asked if initial discussions could take place with Freedom Leisure etc.

Councillor L Ennis made reference to the Play in the Parks events for 2020 and the Town Clerk confirmed that following a meeting with the organisations involved in the events [05 December 2019], it would be early January 2020 before any dates could be confirmed.

42. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions of Meeting) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

43. MINUTES: CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor Ennis informed Members that the Minutes had already been proposed by Councillor Woodward and seconded by Councillor Kirkham at the Town Council meeting held on 28 November 2019.

RESOLVED That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 11 November 2019 [Minute Nos. 33-34] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

[The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm]

Signed

Date