

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, BURNTWOOD
ON MONDAY 06 JANUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor D Ennis [in the Chair]

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

In attendance

G Hunt, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Town Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Evans, Kirkham and Loughbrough Rudd.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

46. MINUTES

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

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.

47. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information from the minutes.

48. PLAY IN THE PARKS PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Town Clerk advised Members that a meeting, about next year's programme, had been held on 05 December 2019 with organisations who host the Play in the Parks events [namely representatives from St John's Community Church, Beacon Community Church, Fun Club and

Spark]. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council's new preferred way of working was outlined at the meeting [the idea of a core offer from the Town Council consisting of the provision of events management and first aid support plus a small budget to pay for activities was explained]. It was explained that as the popularity of the events had grown the Town Council had increasingly needed to rely on the active involvement of local groups [the size of the programme is too big for the Town Council to deliver directly].

Reference was made to the preferred approach to community development and engagement as set out in the Better Burntwood Concept and Members were advised that the Town Council is keen to continue to support the Play in the Parks Programme.

Members were advised that a further meeting with organisations who host the Play in the Parks events was planned for the New Year to carry on the discussions and begin the planning for the 2020 programme.

The Town Clerk explained that the Play in the Parks Programme is not one of the Town Council's statutory duties, however, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 local councils have the power to "incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of the inhabitants". The Town Clerk advised that a sum of £7,000 had been included in the draft budget for 2020/2021 for the Play in the Parks Programme [the budget would be considered by the Council at its meeting on 08 January 2020].

Councillor D Ennis made reference to social media [namely Lichfield Live] and explained that the events had grown to a capacity beyond what the Town Council could do. Councillor D Ennis advised Members that organisations who host the events could apply for funding that the Town Council could not [i.e. Bromford's YouCan – helping to bring communities together fund].

Councillor Woodward stated that back in 2015 the initiative that was instigated by the Town Council was very small however the events have grown over time and an event management company to oversee the events had become essential. Councillor Woodward hoped that other groups and organisations may take the lead [i.e. uniformed organisations could provide some form of activity - cricket club, rugby club, football club].

Councillor M Place made reference to the SPACE programme [Lichfield District Council are currently seeking expressions of interest from local groups who are looking to run activities for young people over the summer, they could be part of the SPACE 2020 funding bid]. Councillor M Place explained that a youth meeting was being held which was hosted by Lucie Ferneyhough, Community Safety Officer, Lichfield District Council.

49. PLANNING UPDATE ON THE WAKES FESTIVAL

Members were advised that the Town Clerk had booked Burntwood Leisure Centre to host the event on 11 July 2020 and that the draft budget 2020/2021 included an allocation of £15,000 to fund the Festival [the budget would be considered by the Council at its meeting on 08 January 2020].

The Town Clerk advised Members that under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 [Class 5] the Town Council has the power to provide and support festivals like the Burntwood Wakes.

Councillor Woodward made reference to the recipients of the Town Council's grant aid scheme and asked if these organisations could be contacted to see if they would be willing to have a stall at the Wakes.

Councillor Woodward made reference to the free funfair rides and the untargeted expenditure. Councillor D Ennis felt that Chasetown in particular was a deprived area [disposal income is tight] and lots of people from the area walk to the event. There is no other Council that offers this. Councillor Willis-Croft suggested reducing the number of rides per person however Councillor D Ennis felt that this would be difficult to manage. Councillor Gittings suggested tokens could be handed out however Councillor D Ennis felt that there would need to be a lot of volunteers on call throughout the whole of the event and this would be difficult to manage.

Councillor D Ennis stated that he would like to see more stalls around the whole of the perimeter. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that for 2019 there was a total of 52 stalls [27 craft stalls and 25 charity stalls]. Councillor D Ennis felt that 100 stalls could be accommodated and it was **AGREED** that each food stall would be £50, each craft stall would be £10 and there would continue to be no charge for charity stalls.

Councillor Westwood made reference to a food quarter and Councillor D Ennis explained that this had been tried in the past.

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the event would require the same space available at the Leisure Centre as previously [i.e. two pitches, mini pitch and hard core].

Councillor Westwood stated that there was a lot of sporting events happening in 2020 and Councillor M Place made reference to the Fire Service Interactive Classroom.

**50. CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTH EAST STAFFORDSHIRE [CASES] WALK-IN ADVICE SERVICE
Minute No. 30 - Community Grants 2019/2020 [11 November 2019 refers]**

The Town Clerk made reference to Minute No. 30 - Community Grants 2019/2020 [11 November 2019 refers] where the Committee acknowledged that whilst the walk-in service [2x4 hour sessions per week] was clearly of value it was concerned that CASES had not fully explored all other sources of funding. In particular there was a concern that the office on Cannock Road, Chase Terrace was not being used to its full potential. The Committee decided to defer making a decision on the application until further information about CASES wider funding situation was available.

The Town Clerk confirmed that on 18 December 2019 he had met with the CEO and Manager of CASES to discuss the Committee's concerns. At the meeting CEO and Manager confirmed that they had explored a number of options regarding the use of the building to generate more income, however, the layout of the building made it very difficult to create any independent space[s] for commercial use [commercial use of the building would also impact on business rates as at present the office was rated as a charity]. The CEO and Manager had confirmed that whilst the building was not fully used at all times there were several days when it was at full capacity.

The Town Clerk advised that at the meeting the CEO and Manager were able to show that they are very active in raising funds [in 2017-18 they raised £255,232 from external sources]. They have been innovative in introducing new initiatives to meet the needs of the community.

The Town Clerk felt that this was an essential public service and explained that the Town Council has the power under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 142[2A] to support organisations like CASES who provide advice to individual members of the community. Members were advised that CASES had applied for £4,000 and there was currently £6,236 left in the community grants budget.

The Town Clerk stated that the walk-in service being provided by CASES is clearly well used by local residents. CASES are very active in raising funds but this service has proved difficult to fund. The organisation is not sitting on a large reserve in view of the scale of its activities. It is the type of service which is at the heart of the Better Burntwood concept [without the Town Council support this service could be at risk].

Councillor Woodward stated that sometime ago she had sight of some figures stating that people living in Hednesford, Norton Canes, Hammerwich etc accessed the facilities in Cannock Road, Chase Terrace and asked if other Parish/Town Councils were contributing towards the 2x4 hour sessions.

Councillor D Ennis stated that the Town Council needed to continue with the discussions having regard to the fact that the Town Council may not be in a position to continue to fund the walk-in service in the future.

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

RESOLVED That the Community and Partnerships Committee approve the grant of £4,000 to CASES to support the Burntwood Walk-in service for the period January 2020 to December 2020.

51. INFORMATION OR ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that further in depth reports would be provided regarding the Wakes Festival and the Play in the Parks Events. It was **AGREED** that the Deputy Clerk would email all Councillors with the link to the Facebook page in respect of the Play in the Parks events.

[The Meeting closed at 7:00 pm]

Signed

Date