

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, BURNTWOOD
ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 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

One member of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions raised by the member of the public.

PRESENTATION BY BURNTWOOD LIONS

Councillor D Ennis informed Members that Burntwood Lions had decided to send their apologies. Councillor D Ennis stated that Burntwood Lions would be invited to attend another meeting at a later date.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Evans, Kirkham and Loughbrough Rudd.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Woodward declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 as she used to be a member of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Panel.

54. MINUTES

Councillor Woodward made reference to Minute No. 48, Page 32 - Play in the Parks Programme Update and said that she was specifically referring to Play in the Parks when she stated that back in 2015 the initiative was instigated by the Town Council.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 06 January 2020 [Minute Nos. 44-51] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

55. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information from the minutes.

56. STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SAFETY PLAN 2020-2024

The Town Clerk explained that the Safety Plan for 2020-2024 will set out the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's priorities for protecting Staffordshire over the next four year. They will look to build on the success of their previous Plans, whilst recognising new challenges [including terrorism, incidents caused by extreme weather [climate change] etc].

Councillor D Ennis asked if Members could respond to the consultation individually or if a response was needed on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillor Woodward stated that we needed to continue to support engagement with the community, however, she was slightly worried as there was no particular detail to the Plan and that it was important to maintain local visibility [Chase Terrace Fire Station]. Councillor Woodward made reference to the firefighters and stated that the firefighters needed to be as safe as possible in the context of funding being cut.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a draft response would be forwarded to Members this week bearing in mind that the consultation end on 22 March 2020.

57. BURNTWOOD WAKES UPDATE

Councillor D Ennis explained to Members that they must bear in mind the potential risk of holding the events. He felt that the Town Council were not in a position at the moment to make a decision and would need to look at advice over the coming days. Government advice must be listened to and followed as public safety was the Town Council's number one concern.

Councillor D Ennis asked the Town Clerk to double check the insurance given the current advice from the Government not to hold events as the Wakes could attract up to 4,000 people.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the majority of the entertainment etc had already been booked and that 30 craft/charity stalls had already book together with 4 food stalls. It was agreed that all stallholders would get a refund if the event was postponed.

Councillor D Ennis made reference to the VE Day celebrations to be held at Sankeys Corner on 09 May 2020 which is being organised by Angela Brady from Kean Styles and supported by the Town Council. Councillor D Ennis stated that accordingly to social media there were lots of stalls and community groups taking part and asked if the Town Clerk could liaise with Mrs Brady and ascertain the details/contacts for the community groups etc.

Councillor Woodward explained that the Town Council may have to take a financial hit however there was a contingency in place.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council will need to follow Government advice. In terms of the coronavirus the Town Council's key statutory responsibility was as a burial authority and the wider agenda may need to be suspended.

Councillor Westwood asked if Travelwood had been approached yet. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that he would be contacting Travelwood again this year.

Councillor Westwood asked if a leaflet had yet been designed and Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the deadline for the TownTrader June edition was 12 May 2020, however, if the Wakes did not go ahead the Town Council would still utilise the space for something else.

58. PLAY IN THE PARKS UPDATE

The Town Clerk explained that the situation was similar to the last meeting where only St John's Community Church had come forward to host two events [27 July and 10 August]. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had written to both the Fun Club and Spark and was awaiting a response however the Cricket Club and the Scouts were unable to host events this year. The Town Clerk stated that Beacon Community Church was likely to pull out of Redwood Park which put this location at risk.

Councillor Woodward explained that the Spark centre had closed and it would be running as an online support group until it feels able to reopen as normal.

Councillor Woodward felt that the first event [VE Day Celebration] was most at risk. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council is supporting this event and confirmed that he had applied for a road closure [from Cannock Road to Water Street]. The Town Council would be employing a company who would be dealing with the event management/risk assessment side of the event. Councillor D Ennis said that this is what the Town Council is all about supporting community groups so that they can provide events [help with the technicalities]. Councillor Woodward endorsed the event and asked to recall our thanks to Angela Brady.

59. CHRISTMAS EVENTS UPDATE

The Town Clerk confirmed that nothing had been booked for the Christmas Festival [28 November 2020]. Councillor D Ennis stated that potentially we may not get the festival train, fun fair rides if left un-booked. The Town Clerk explained that the Government is advising that in 2/3 months there may be a peak in the virus however there may be another outbreak around November time.

Councillor Woodward asked to defer booking of the entertainment etc until the next meeting of the Committee [15 April 2020] when further guidance may be available. Councillor D Ennis asked if the Deputy Town Clerk could approach the festival train, mini zoo etc to see if they were still available.

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the businesses organising the Chasetown event on 26 November are pushing ahead and Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the Boney Hay event would be held on 24 November and that the Co-op at Morley Road are looking at holding an event on 21 November.

60. INFORMATION OR ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Coronavirus

Reference was made to Minute No. 59 [Town Council Meeting 12 March 2020 refers] and Councillor D Ennis stated that going forward the coronavirus was a massive thing that would affect our community.

Councillor Woodward made reference to a bid to create a community database to support Lichfield and Burntwood residents during the coronavirus outbreak. This follows telephone calls received from residents who were asking for advice and assistance. In partnership with Kate Gomez and Steve Lightfoot a simple database has been created - just the name of an organisation plus a secure telephone number and email - which can then be used to signpost people, even those most isolated, towards help. It is hoped that when coronavirus is all over, the database will continue for people who are anxious, lonely or just need someone to care. To add organisations details to "Be A Friend" database for Lichfield constituency the email is lichfieldbeafriend@gmail.com. The Town Clerk confirmed that he would circulate the information to all Members. Councillor D Ennis stated that organisations can still sign up to the database and the Town Clerk stated that there is coronavirus information available on the website.

Outdoor Gyms on Public Open Space in Burntwood

Councillor Woodward made reference to social media and the delivery of two outdoor gyms on public open space in Burntwood. The two parks which are most likely to host the outdoor gyms are Chase Terrace Park and Redwood Park even though the Cabinet Member could not confirm whether Friends of Chase Terrace Park had been consulted. Members were informed that the Town Council had not been formally consulted and even though the introduction of outdoor gyms in parks fits with the District Council's ambition that its residents can live healthy and active lifestyles the gyms may not be sited in the best place [vandalism]. Councillor Woodward felt that the District Council needed to consult properly with the Town Council and that the Town Council is not just given the detail [via social media].

The Town Clerk stated that the outdoor gym equipment had been mentioned in talks previously and that a detailed report had now been received.

Community Litter Picking

Councillor Willis-Croft made reference to community litter picking [Spring Clean 20 March - 13 April 2020] and asked should members be taking part. The Town Clerk suggested observing the social distancing criteria and looking at further advice which will become available up until the event. Councillor Woodward suggested sharing where the litter picking is going to take place. The Town Clerk asked Councillor Willis-Croft to confirm as soon as possible the number of Hi-Viz jackets, pickers and bags that would be required as the Town Clerk would need to contact the District Council to obtain the items.

Councillor Woodward confirmed that Councillors Birch, Evans and Westwood had recently undertaken a community action day and clearing an overgrown alleyway.

Chase Terrace Technology College - PSHE/Citizenship Days

Councillor Woodward confirmed that the PSHE/Citizenship Days have been cancelled and would like to thank all Members for their support, those who had volunteered to take part and

others who had pencilled it in to their diary. It is hoped that the event will be re-arranged at some point.

[The Meeting closed at 6.55 pm]

Signed

Date