

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET,
BURNTWOOD ON FRIDAY 09 DECEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Taylor [in the Chair]
Councillors Bishop, D Ennis, Evans, Gittings.

In attendance

S Lightfoot, Town Clerk
Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Coe, Ho, Kirkham, M Place, R Place and Woodward.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 8 – Burntwood 10K Running Event in 2023 as KP Events, who have produced an Event Management Plan for the event, employ him as their commentator for events.

39. MINUTES

The Chair reminded Members that they were being asked to comment solely on the accuracy of the Minutes and that the Minutes had been approved at Full Council on 16 November 2022.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 19 October 2022 [Minute Nos. 25-36] be approved as a correct record.

40. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information arising from the minutes.

41. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Warmer Welcome

Councillor D Ennis referred to the Warmer Welcome Initiative and confirmed that there were different venues around the town offering a warm space. He believed that the venues would get more used as the weather gets colder. He asked if all Members could share the information. Councillor Evans confirmed that she together with Councillor Woodward attended the warmer welcome at Chase Terrace Methodist Church which attracts approximately 20 people of all ages, however, older people may be more cautious about attending in the winter months if it is slippery outside as they may be afraid of falling. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that Chasetown Football Club are looking at forming a partnership with Travel Wood to provide transport to and from the club on days when they are providing a Warmer Welcome space.

Councillor Taylor suggested other Councillors might be asked to attend spaces in their Wards as this would help encourage their use by people who feel reticent. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that this was already happening.

Details of the Warmer Welcome venues can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/warmerwelcomeburntwood/>

St John's Community Church

Councillor Evans confirmed that St John's Community Church would be holding a free Christmas Day 3-course lunch at 1pm for those who would otherwise be on their own on the big day.

Memory Walk

Councillor Evans referred to the memory walk and felt that despite the weather the event had been a success. She thanked Burntwood Methodist Church for their hospitality and the CAB for the goodie bags.

Email Newsletter

Councillor Taylor informed the Committee that he had spoken to the Leadership Team and the Town Clerk regarding the possibility of creating a monthly email newsletter that residents could sign up to using their email account. He explained that this would help reach a number of residents who do not see the Town Council's posts on Facebook either because they do not use it or because of Facebook's algorithms. He felt that the Town Council still needed a physical way of engaging those residents who do not use the internet at all and do not have email. Councillor Taylor explained that Mailchimp was the best free offering at the moment [Mailchimp offers up to 500 subscribers for free] and therefore the best platform to use for an initial trial but was not the only provider. He suggested that a trial of 2/3 months and then evaluate it. Councillor Taylor confirmed that he, together with Mrs Taylor would develop the template and content in consultation with the Town Clerk which would then be approved by the Leader, Deputy Leader and Town Clerk. He confirmed that following an initial social media post that we currently have approximately 90 subscribers.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Mailchimp was fully GDPR compliance and would be zero cost initially as long as we had less than 500 subscribers.

Councillor Taylor confirmed that he hoped to get an email newsletter out in December which could highlight the Warmer Welcome Initiative, Chair's Christmas Message, photographs from the Christmas Events held in November etc.

42. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND

42.1 Burntwood Be A Friend

The Town Clerk confirmed that following the presentation at the Town Council Meeting held on 16 November 2022 by Joanne Dodds, Burntwood Be A Friend Project Co-ordinator an application for significant grants had been received.

Councillor D Ennis stated that he was a supporter of the "community store" however he was confused as the organisation applying for the grant was Burntwood Be A Friend and not the community store who he believed were separate entities. He also pointed out that Ms Dodds had a Spark email. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that, at this moment in time, the community store had not sorted out the problems they were experiencing with their increasing utility costs. Councillor D Ennis stated that British Gas had checked "up to the meter" [which is all their responsibility is]. It was felt that the meter was in fact feeding something else [which is the landlords responsibility – Midland Heart]. He believed that there was a "free to use" laundrette in the Jarvis Court building which could be feeding into the said meter. He stated that unless the community store fixed the issue there may be a possibility of closure. He felt that the Town Council needed proof of what the money is for [not just paying for gas and electricity bills].

Councillor Evans confirmed that she was still doing her telephoning befriending service. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Evans would email the Housing Department at Lichfield District Council, in particular Mr David Whittaker, for his help, advice and support regarding the problem of excessive utility costs and the consequences.

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

RESOLVED That £5,000 be awarded from the Better Burntwood Fund to Burntwood Be A Home SUBJECT to the problems being experienced with the increasing energy cost being resolved to the satisfaction of the Town Clerk [confirmation to be received by the next meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee on 08 February 2023].

42.2 Burntwood Breast Care

Councillor Evans explained that the Group provided support for survivors of and people suffering from breast cancer.

It was proposed by Councillor D Ennis and seconded by Councillor Evans and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That £250 be awarded from the Better Burntwood Fund to Burntwood Breast Care.

43. CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2022

Sankey's Corner Event

The Town Clerk confirmed that it had been an excellent Christmas event which had been very well received by the public and had had good attendee numbers. The event was primarily aimed at families with primary aged school children. The Town Clerk confirmed that Gary Williams from Seventeen43 Management had provided some post event review notes. Mr Williams had felt that the road closure from 12 noon had allowed extra time for stallholders and attractions to arrive, set up and move vehicles. He stated that the road closure staff had an excellent attitude [nothing was too much trouble] and worked very well in conjunction with the event control. He felt

that Bert and Gerts had provided a quality set up relating to the market stalls, the attractions were extremely popular, excellent choir and using Emmanuel Church for Santa's grotto allowed long queues to wait in the warm and using the chairs to create a walkway both in and out of the venue.

In the post event review notes, Mr Williams had stated that he had received a number of enquiries from attendees as to where the Santa's grotto was and what time was the Christmas lights being switched on and he had suggested signage for Santa was needed and regular announcements over a PA system. He also suggested that consideration be given to a site plan to ensure all attractions are not conflicting with each other e.g. the fun bus complaining about snow from the snow globe being blown onto his bus. Mr Williams stated that the public bins were not emptied before the event started which caused overflow and excessive rubbish blowing across the site and he suggested a clean-up team to stay on top of the rubbish with bin bags and litter pickers. Mr Williams stated that unfortunately a number of teenagers running in a threatening behaviour towards local shops and behind the building causing damage and he suggested more support staff/PCSOs presence was required for the whole duration of the event.

Councillor D Ennis suggested that at a future meeting, attractions for teenagers needed to be considered [i.e. bringing back the scream ride which had been located previously where the fun bus and snow globe was].

The Town Clerk explained that due to budget restraints the Town Council needed to utilise external funding resources and sponsorship if it wanted to hold an event of similar or expanded size next year.

Boney Hay Event

The Town Clerk confirmed that a scaled down event was held on Monday 21 November due to heavy rain fall throughout the day. He confirmed that the Chair, Councillor Birch, had switched on the Christmas lights and Santa had made an appearance. He stated that some residents had attended.

44. BURNTWOOD 10K RUNNING EVENT IN 2023

Councillor Taylor referred to the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 2022 and in particular Minute No. 42 – Burntwood Fun Run 2023 and the resolution that the Town Clerk be authorised to look at provisional dates, potential sponsors and routes. He confirmed that the Event Management Plan produced by KP Events had not been published with the Agenda as it was commercially sensitive [the Plan was displayed at the meeting via the smart screen]. Councillor Taylor explained to Members that there were three options available [a] KP Events could run this event without a contribution from the Town Council, incur all of the expenditure and keep all of the income; [b] the Town Council could engage KP Events to run the event on behalf of the Town Council, the Town Council would incur all of the expenditure and keep all of the income and any sponsorship received [an event of this size would cost around £12,000-£15,000 or [c] decline to run any such event.

Councillor D Ennis stated that he could not support any Town Council expenditure [outlaying the money is a risk]. He explained that the Lichfield 10k race at its peak attracted 1,200 runners however, last year it only attracted 800. He said that he was more in favour of Option [a] in that the Event Management Company should take all of the risk.

Councillor Evans referred to the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 01 December 2022 and in particular Minute No. 42 – Schedule of Payments and the £500 expenditure already spent. She pointed out that we had only received one Event

Management Plan and that the Town Council was not tied to KP Events and she was unsure as to how popular this type of event is. She also raised concerns regarding how easy would it be regarding obtaining sponsorship in this economic climate and the amount of officer time this type of event would involve.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the event would involve partnership working, engagement with businesses and showcasing the Town.

Councillor D Ennis asked who in the partnership covered the costs? He confirmed that the Town Council did not need to go out to tender if the Town Council was only supporting/endorsing the event and incurred no costs.

Councillor Taylor pointed out that the Lichfield 10k race is taking place on 10 September 2023 and runners do not usually like to do two weeks in a row. He suggested that the Burntwood 10k could be held in July 2023 where we could also publicise the Wakes or March/April 2024.

It was proposed by Councillor D Ennis and seconded by Councillor Bishop and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That Option [a] [KP Events could run this event without a contribution from the Town Council, incur all of the expenditure and keep all of the income] be the preferred Option; that the Town Clerk ascertains whether or not this is feasible with K P Events and any further expenditure must be reported to this Committee BEFORE it is committed/spent.

[The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm]

Signed

Date