

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET,
BURNTWOOD ON WEDNESDAY 05 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor P Taylor [in the Chair]

Councillors Coe [from 6.45 pm], D Ennis, Evans, Gittings, Kirkham, S Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft and Wittstock

In attendance

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

Ms K Horner, Community Development and Engagement Officer

One member of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor R Ennis [work commitments]

The reason for the apology was approved.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Taylor declared an interest in items relating to Burntwood Memorial Institute as he is a Trustee and Chair of their Committee.

Councillor Evans declared an interest in items relating to CASES as she is a Trustee.

3. 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 24 May 2023.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 05 April 2023 [Minute Nos. 56-66] be approved as a correct record.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information arising from the minutes.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED That following the word “times” under the Governance Section Bulletin Point 3 being added, the Terms of Reference be agreed.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that he together with the Community Development and Engagement Officer had attended a meeting on Monday 26 June 2023 with members of the Staffordshire Adults Autistic Society [SAAS]. They provide support to autistic individuals in Staffordshire however they have a base in Lichfield Methodist Church in Tamworth Street. They offer support to individuals both before and after diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition [ASC], work with individuals who are over the age of 16, as well as providing support and advice to families of people of ASC. They also offer guidance to employers to meet the needs of both employees and clients. They have weekly social meetings that enable people to socialise in a comfortable and non-judgemental environment.

Councillor D Ennis also referred to BLAST [Burntwood and Lichfield Autism Support Together] who aim to give parents the chance to connect, share information and help each other navigate the challenges of raising a child with autism in a neurotypical world. BLAST run a number of different things for their members including parent support groups, a girls youth club, and they run inclusive activities and events for children with autism. They also aim to help parents navigate the various different statutory agencies involved in providing support for children with autism and raise awareness of acceptance of autism in the community. They operate from St John's Community Church but are looking for a permanent base.

It was **AGREED** that the Community Development and Engagement Officer would send an email to Members with further details regarding BLAST.

Councillor Kirkham said that she chairs the Independent Advisory Group relating to the Police and if Members had any issues, these could be raised at the meeting due to be held on Saturday 08 July.

Councillor Evans confirmed that she had had a meeting with the Community Development and Engagement Officer and Councillor Woodward to discuss the benefits of having a dementia diagnosis event in Burntwood. This would be facilitated by the Alzheimer's Society but would require support from Burntwood PCN [Primary Care Network]. Councillor Evans confirmed that she had written to Dr Price, Clinical Director of Burntwood PCN to ask for their support.

Councillor Evans confirmed that she together with the Community Development and Engagement Officer had attended Crafty Crafters at Burntwood Library on 20 June. The group had produced a dementia friendly banner with the help from children's art work from SPARK. It was hoped that this would be on display at a future market and at the Wakes Festival on 22 July.

Councillor Taylor stated that he had taken on the role of Trustee of Burntwood Memorial Institute and attends the Burntwood Memorial Community Association committee meetings as a representative of Burntwood Town Council. He stated that

the building is currently running just like a room rental business and felt that this building/facility was unique to the community. He confirmed that they were also on the lookout for more volunteers as they needed to recruit to modernise. Councillor Taylor mentioned that they were thinking of trialling a mobile cinema, perhaps from the beginning of September. He would provide further details when available.

7. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND

7.1 Burntwood Lions

Members were informed that Burntwood Lions needed to purchase some gazebo weights in order to use the gazebo effectively and comply with insurance requirements.

Members were informed that the Burntwood Lions administrate a fund called White Goods Scheme on behalf of the Town Council.

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

RESOLVED That the Burntwood Lions be awarded £200 from the Better Burntwood Fund in order to purchase gazebo weights.

7.2 Burntwood Platinum Amateur Boxing Club

Members were informed that the people who run the Boxing Club were community minded and even offer free boxing training for children. Members felt that the activity lowered the anti-social behaviour at Redwood Park with the Boxing Club just operating out of that building on a regular basis.

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

RESOLVED That the Burntwood Platinum Amateur Boxing Club be awarded £500 from the Better Burntwood Fund in order to provide further equipment to enable more individuals to participate.

7.3 Burntwood Be A Friend

Members were referred to Minute No. 42.1 – 09 December 2022 Committee Meeting, where it was **RESOLVED** that £5,000 be awarded from the Better Burntwood Fund subject to the problems being experienced with the increasing energy cost being resolved.

Members were informed that the electricity costs had been reduced from around £800 per month to around £350 a month. They were still battling to get a smart meter installed, as the current meter is not compatible with smart meters. They were confident that they had brought costs down to a manageable figure and are keeping abreast of the Government's EBDS schemes. They did receive some retrospective discounts/refunds due to the EBDS scheme in January this year.

Councillor D Ennis felt that the resolution of the 09 December 2022 had been resolved.

RESOLVED That in accordance with Minute No. 42.1 – 09 December 2022 Committee Meeting and the subsequent information provided that £5,000 be awarded to Burntwood Be A Friend from the Better Burntwood Fund.

8. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND – RESIDENTS SURVEY

The Community Development and Engagement Officer referred to Minute No. 51 – Better Burntwood Fund [08 February 2023 Committee Meeting]. She explained that £15,000 per year is currently allocated in the budget to provide three larger grants of up to £5,000 to local voluntary and community organisations via the Better Burntwood fund. The funding requirement for this scheme would not change. This funding would represent a £45,000 [over three years] investment in the Burntwood voluntary and community sector. A three-year commitment would give successful organisations the opportunity to develop services or projects with some certainty of funding and give Officers the opportunity to monitor and better understand progress and change.

Councillor Tranter queried whether or not any other group/organisation could apply for up to £5,000 within this period and the Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that the answer to that would be no.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that to identify the priority areas, a survey had been conducted for 6 weeks throughout May and June, providing the opportunity for Burntwood residents to have their say in what they believe the priorities are.

Councillor Kirkham felt that the new commissioning process would have more impact, more sustainability and build capacity. Councillor D Ennis explained it is hoped that a 3-year investment may also attract wider funding and investment from other sources bringing additional benefit to the town and the local voluntary and community sector.

Councillor Evans stated that it is clear from the report what the priority areas are however Members felt that youth services [11-18 years], mental health and wellbeing support for children and sports clubs could come under one umbrella and the Warmer Welcome Initiative [currently being re-branded] currently also covers tackling loneliness and isolation.

[Councillor Kirkham left the leaving at 6:50 pm]

Councillor D Ennis felt that for, for example, advice, information and support on fuel poverty/cost of living and advice, information and support on benefits/debt was already covered by organisations such as CASES, Burntwood Be A Friend, and tenants of Bromford.

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

RESOLVED That

[a] the Priority Areas be [1] Youth Services [11-18 years], Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Children and Sports Club and [2] Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Adults, Tackling Loneliness and Isolation.

[b] the Community Development and Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee, the Leader and Leader of the Minority Group prepared the application form to include terms and conditions [reporting mechanism] and promotion.

9. 2023 WAKES

Members were informed that it was count down to the Wakes with only a couple of weeks to go. Members were advised of what was on offer during the day. Councillor Tranter asked if a list of activities could be provided to her and it was **AGREED** that the Deputy Clerk would email her.

Councillor P Taylor asked if any Members were available on the day to help "man" the Town Council gazebo and the Quite Tent.

10. 2023 PLAY IN THE PARKS

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that all venues had now been booked. Councillor Tranter was glad that the scheme was still going as she explained that she was the Member to first explore such events and there was still a real need.

Councillor D Ennis stated that the Town Council had empowered groups to come on board and that Keon Homes and Chasetown Civil Engineering had provided sponsorship to cover two of the events which would now enable the Town Council to provide a packed lunch.

11. 2023 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had already booked Santa for the event on Saturday 25 November at Sankey's Corner together with fun fair rides etc.

Councillor D Ennis explained that the Chasetown Event [scheduled for Thursday 23 November] was now funded by a private company.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the event at Boney Hay still takes place [scheduled for Monday 20 November] and that Bromford had been approached again for sponsorship.

[The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm]

Signed

Date