

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET,
BURNTWOOD ON THURSDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans (in the Chair)

Councillors Coe MBE (from 6.40pm), Gittings, P Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft and Wittstock

In attendance

S Lightfoot, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

Ms K Horner, Community Development and Engagement Officer

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor D Ennis (Work Commitments)

Councillor R Ennis (Work Commitments)

Councillor Holdsworth (Work Commitments)

Councillor Kirkham (Work Commitments)

Councillor S Taylor (Unwell)

The reasons for the apologies were approved.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Gittings declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6. i. Active's 60's Group as members of that group are known to her and took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6. ii. Members of Burntwood as specifically the applicant is known to her, she vacated the Chair and took no part in the discussion.

28. 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 17 September 2024.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 05 September 2024 (Minute Nos. 14-25) be approved as a correct record.

29. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information arising from the minutes.

30. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Support Staffordshire – Volunteer Fair

The Community Development and Engagement Officer informed Members that she had been working in partnership with Support Staffordshire to host a volunteer fair at Burntwood Leisure Centre for the second year which went ahead in October. Over 30 voluntary organisations attended and the event this year was busier than last year. Positive feedback was received from the stall holders about the number of people they'd spoken to. The aim is to continue to work with Support Staffordshire to provide an annual volunteer fair in Burntwood.

Councillor Evans informed Members that she had attended the volunteer fair and it was interesting to see exactly what is available in the area. She stated that the volunteer fair was very well attended.

Lichfield Garrick Theatre

The Community Development and Engagement Officer informed Members that the Town Council's partnership with the Lichfield Garrick Theatre continues to progress. The public consultation closed in September, and the Community Development and Engagement Officer and Jonny McClean from the Lichfield Garrick Theatre have gone through the survey data, and the Garrick have created a plan of activities that people in Burntwood have told us they would like to see. The Community Development and Engagement Officer and Jonny McClean from the Lichfield Garrick Theatre presented at a joint meeting to the Town Council's leadership team, representatives from Lichfield District Council and representatives from Lichfield Garrick Theatre to share the outcomes of the consultation and outline the direction that the project will now take, as well as aspirations for later stages.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that a significant part of this project to date had been the creation of Young Garrick Burntwood, the free youth theatre group for young people from Burntwood aged 11 – 18. Young Garrick Burntwood held their first performance at the end of October at Burntwood Memorial Hall which Members were invited to attend, and the feedback we have received from this has been excellent.

Councillor Evans felt that the partnership with the Lichfield Garrick Theatre was going well as it was important to have those kinds of activities available in Burntwood and she would encourage all Members to attend the next performance of the youth theatre group.

Lichfield District Council – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that together with Councillor D Ennis they have continued to liaise with Lee Eteo, Town Centre's Manager from Lichfield District Council and have fed back views shared by Members on LDC's project to tidy up the retail areas in the town. The first part of the project will be to clean, weed and make repairs to the retail spaces, and the second phase will look to introduce new foliage, art, and street furniture to make the areas more welcoming and vibrant.

Burntwood Town Council Student Award in Memory of Stephen Sutton MBE

The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that the BTC Student Award in memory of Stephen Sutton MBE closed for applications at the end of October and we have received 15 applications from young people in Burntwood. The Community and Partnerships Committee will meet on the 04 December at 6pm to review those applications.

Councillor Evans explained that due to the number of applications received and the fact that we need to be mindful of the numbers of copies printed, on this occasion the applications will not be printed off.

Annual Sunflower Competition

The Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that the annual sunflower competition closed in September but unfortunately, we did not have any entries from local primary schools this year. Some reported issues with their plants after a poor summer. The Community Development and Engagement Officer will bring this back to Members closer to the summer months to review for next year.

Lichfield District Soroptimists

The Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that she had met recently with a representative from Lichfield District Soroptimists who are supporting this year's campaign to Orange the World. The campaign calls for an end to violence against women and girls, and the Soroptimists have asked the Town Council for support in highlighting this campaign by lighting the Old Mining College orange and decorating the buildings railings, which will go ahead for the duration of the 16 Days of Activism, from Monday 25 November – Tuesday 10 December.

Councillor Evans felt that it was important to support the 16 Days of Activism.

Burntwood Welcome Spaces

The Community Development and Engagement Officer reminded Members that the Town Council had established Burntwood Welcome Spaces two years ago in response to the cost-of-living crisis so that residents could access warm places around the town. The initiative has continued and the sessions that are available are mostly led by organisations who deliver them as part of their core offering, such as local churches and the library. She said that she will be looking in to how we continue to promote these sessions and support in sustaining the groups that are not linked to an organisation.

31. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND

31.1 Active 60's Group

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Councillor Gittings took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Evans felt that there was little detail in the application form, however, Councillor P Taylor pointed out that additional information had been forwarded to Members in the form of a letter which gave greater detail for example one of the objectives of the group is to reduce social isolation. He explained that the amount requested would be spent on purposes outside of the Burntwood area for example

day trips, hire of transport etc however the Town Council had provided funding to this Group for this type of request in November 2023.

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

RESOLVED That the Community Development and Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Town Clerk, speaks to the Group to offer support on other sources of funding, before a grant of £360 is awarded.

31.2 Members of Burntwood

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest, Councillor Evans vacated the Chair and took no part in the discussion.

Members were informed that Members of Burntwood were a voluntary group, that meet monthly for social purposes. Councillor Tranter thought that this Group had previously been known as Men of Burntwood and asked if women were now allowed to join. Members were informed that the application had been completed by the Membership Secretary who was female. Members were informed that Members of Burntwood do not have a bank account in their own name and if a grant was awarded would be paid into Christ Church – Burntwood PCC.

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

RESOLVED That the Community Development and Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Town Clerk, speaks to the Group to ascertain how the fund is to be received and distributed before a grant of £375 is awarded.

31.3 Burntwood Community Table Tennis Club

Members were informed that the Club had been in operate for over 20 years and its aim was to promote physical activity and improve mental wellbeing for anyone in the Burntwood area. Councillor Evans explained that the Club had recently funded an outdoor table for anyone to use at the Leisure Centre and had previously donated table tennis tables to local high schools. She explained that the Club is slightly unusual in that most table tennis clubs are members only clubs, whereas Burntwood offers a turn up and play basis, as well as memberships, to people of all ages and abilities (including disabled).

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £500 be awarded to Burntwood Community Table Tennis Club for running costs.

31.4 Lichfield & Burntwood Repair and Share Café (part of Transition Lichfield)

Councillor P Taylor explained that this was another application of funding a group's core costs and next year the funding available may be even tighter, however the Town Council had provided funding to this Group for this type of request in September 2023.

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

RESOLVED That the Community Development and Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Town Clerk, speaks to the Group to offer support on other sources of funding, before a grant of £500 is awarded.

32. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR 2024

Councillor Evans gave an update on the Christmas Events. She confirmed that Bromford would be contributing £200 towards the Christmas Event at Boney Hay.

33. BURNTWOOD LIONS WHITE GOODS SCHEME UPDATE

The Community Development and Engagement Officer referred to Minute No. 58 (06 March 2024 refers) where the Committee resolved that a quarterly report would be completed by Burntwood Lions which would provide the Committee with further insight into the support received by residents including anecdotal information. She explained that some of this year's budget had been used to cover costs of £1,165 incurred in January - March 2024 during the last financial year when previous funds ran out, the Lions were able to place order with Hathaways and pay retrospectively for them. This was not indicated in the last report, so the figures in this quarterly report had been updated to reflect this.

Councillor Tranter asked if Burntwood Lions were eligible for funding via We Love Lichfield and she was informed that they were.

Councillor Wittstock referred to the Household Support Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/cost-living-help-local-council>) this could help with energy and water bills, food and essential items.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that she will be meeting with the Burntwood Lions to discuss service criteria and funding options.

34. COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Community Development and Engagement Officer reminded Members that in February 2023 Members had agreed to change the Town Council's existing larger grants of one-off payments of up to £5,000 to a commissioning model, providing £15,000 over three years for projects delivering outcomes related to specific priorities. Following a public consultation, two priority areas were selected, adult mental health and wellbeing and youth services (11-18 years). Applications were received and Burton and District Mind and Platinum Boxing were selected by Members. Members received an update on the progress made by two projects in receipt of funding.

In particular, Councillor P Taylor said that he was keen to learn the outcome of the consequential thinking workshops being delivered by Burntwood Platinum ABC.

Councillor Evans felt that both Burton and District Mind and Burntwood Platinum ABC had produced good reports which showed that the funding provided by the Town Council was being directed in the right place.

Councillor Evans said it is clear that Burntwood Town Council is very proactive and as members of the public are often unaware of what is happening, we need to look at

ways to engage more with them and encourage attendance at meetings, so that they can participate in the Public Forum part of the agenda.

(The Meeting closed at 6.50 pm)

Signed

Date