

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET,
BURNTWOOD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans (in the Chair)

Councillors Bishop, Coe MBE, D Ennis, R Ennis, Gittings, P Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft and Wittstock

In attendance

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

Ms K Horner, Community Development and Engagement Officer

Councillor Norman

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillor Kirkham and Councillor S Taylor.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None declared.

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 22 May 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor P Taylor 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 07 May 2025 (Minute Nos. 64-74) be approved as a correct record.

4. **INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no information arising from the minutes.

5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Councillor Evans referred to the wonderful news that the Lichfield Garrick Theatre had secured funding from Arts Council England to launch a bold and exciting three-year outreach project in Burntwood. In partnership with the Town Council, they will bring a whole host of creative and cultural opportunities to the town.

Councillor Evans reminded Members that it was the Festival Wakes this Saturday which will be providing a good cross section of entertainment and it was hoped that it will be well attended but we cannot control the weather. She emphasised that there is limited parking on site and would encourage other methods of transportation.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer reported that the Dementia Friendly Walk went ahead on Sunday 18 May. Working alongside Burntwood Dementia Friendly Community and other partners, the event raised £850 for Alzheimer's Society and around 70 people took part. During Dementia Action Week, the Community Development and Engagement Officer also delivered a Dementia Friends session for MHA Communities staff and volunteers, and Town Council staff.

On the 21 May, staff and Councillors attended Stop the Bleed training which was delivered by Lichfield District Council's Community Safety Partnership. As a part of this initiative, the District Council provided 7 bleed kits to be installed in Burntwood Town Council's defibrillator cabinets, and the Town Council committed to purchasing additional kits for the other cabinets across the town, the Town Council offices, the BuRRT van and for use at Town Council events. These kits have now been purchased, installed, and advertised so that residents are aware of their availability.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer reported that the Lichfield Garrick's Creative Burntwood project, of which the Town Council is an active partner, has been successful in receiving funding of almost £300,000 from the Arts Council for a 3-year outreach project to bring creative opportunities to the town. The Lichfield Garrick team held a meeting for staff and Councillors in June to share the details of what this project will entail.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer, along with Councillor Laura Ennis, Councillor Di Evans and Councillor Paul Taylor visited Platinum Boxing to hear more about how the funding they had received from the Town Council as part of their commissioning project had helped them to expand and offer more to young people in Burntwood.

The Community Development and Engagement Officer, along with staff and Councillors were also invited to attend the Burntwood Lions recent coffee morning to celebrate their successful funding application to provide further services for vulnerable people living in Burntwood.

Councillor D Ennis referred to community events being 'advertised' on social media and asked if these could be shared on our platforms. In particular he referred to the Networking for Businesses events hosted by Ian Gardner (the last event being held at the Uxbridge Arms in Chasetown on Thursday 03 July at 4.30pm). This is a fantastic platform for collaboration and growth. It was hoped that the events would be moved around the town and Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the next event would be held at the Grangemoor Working Men's Club. Councillor D Ennis also mentioned that Burntwood inBusiness hold a breakfast networking group at Bradshaws Farm Shop and Café from 7.30am to 8.45am On Wednesdays.

6. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND

6a. Star Parenting CIC

Members were informed that the grant would go towards paying for two facilitators to run a Starting Solids workshop/course for 8 parents and babies. Councillor Evans explained that the group had already received a start up grant from another organisation and they had also applied to other sources for funding. Councillor Coe

MBE raised concerns as to whether or not the facilitators were qualified to deliver this course. Councillor P Taylor informed Members that this had been raised before the meeting and the Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that one of the facilitators was qualified in this area to deliver the course.

Councillor P Taylor queried the fact that the applicant had applied to other sources for funding and explained that this was for three single courses and this application was for one course. The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that this application was for one 3½ hour session for 8 babies plus parents. Councillor Gittings raised concerns regarding the numbers involved (only 8 babies and 8 parents) and Councillor D Ennis felt that the application was unclear. Councillor Tranter thought that Spark Burntwood also ran similar groups. The Community Development and Engagement Officer referred to the health visiting team clinic for 0-19 years held at Spark however this provided limited information and the proposal would provide more in depth information by a qualified facilitator.

Councillor Coe MBE referred to parenting courses which have been run by Pathway and asked how Star Parenting CIC would target the parents who needed the help. Councillor D Ennis also asked how are the parents selected e.g. means tested as there could be parents who could afford to pay for the course themselves. Councillor Gittings pointed out that if they are already on the social services radar they are already provided with support. Councillor D Ennis queried is this application for a start up business as the breakdown included staff wages.

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

RESOLVED That the application received from Star Parenting CIC is not supported on this occasion.

7. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE WAKES FESTIVAL 2025

The Deputy Clerk updated Members on the current situation. She explained that the list of activities was a living document and was continually being edited and updated between meetings.

8. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE PLAY IN THE PARKS 2025

The Deputy Clerk updated Members on the current situation. She explained that the list of activities was a living document and was continually being edited and updated between meetings.

9. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR 2025

The Deputy Clerk referred to the planning application which had been approved for a care home on Cannock Road and in particular the location of the funfair rides. Councillor D Ennis explained that as long as the funfair rides are set up on the road, he could not foresee any problem. It was **agreed** that a quotation would be obtained for the funfair rides (the Miami and two childrens rides).

RESOLVED That comments made be followed up and reported back to the Committee.

(The Meeting closed at 6.32 pm)

Signed

Date