
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDS 22ND JULY 2020, 7PM (ONLINE)

1. Welcome from the Chair of the Committee

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the process for public participation later on the agenda.

2. Attendance of Councillors to be recorded

Cllrs Craig Carter (Chair), Charlotte Parry, Debbie Harwood, Ruth Hatton, Louise Gerrard
Seven members of the public were also in attendance

3. To receive and record any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr Jason Mills (work commitment)
Absent: Cllrs Sara Stevens and Wayne Stevens

4. To record any declarations of interests on matters on the agenda

Cllrs Parry and Harwood declared interests as employees of B-Epic in relation to agenda item 11 and have appropriate dispensations.

Cllr Parry declared an interest as an employee of the Police involved in licensing and would not take part in agenda item 7.

5. To receive any public representations at the discretion of the Committee Chair

The Chair stated that the Council had received for letters of concern from members of the public concerned about how the festival could take place safely in the current COVID 19 circumstances and the impact it could have on the wider community and these were read out by the Clerk.

Cllr G Evans, speaking as a member of the public stated that it was difficult for the community to feed in their views when there were no plans available to consider. He stated that the event would be covid secure and that capacity would be reduced to help ensure this.

Cllr C Evans, speaking as a member of the public stated his surprise that the event was still going ahead when other events nationally were being cancelled.

Joe Pointen, the Witcombe Festival organiser then spoke in response to the previous points raised by members of the public. He stated that they have brought in experts to ensure the event is covid secure and as safe as it can be and that other events are going ahead nationally, but not in format that we would recognise. Events plans will be released if discussions with the authorities are successful. The event has run at a loss for 7 of the past 8 years and is a massive financial risk for the organisers. Any profits made will go to NHS and health charities. He stated that he would not risk the festivals reputation if it was felt that it would be unsafe to run it and it would only go ahead if the authorities allowed.

6. To approve the minutes of the Community Committee held 3 March 2020

Cllr Harwood commented that it was disappointing that the planned events discussed at this meeting have had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Harwood, seconded by Cllr Parry and unanimously approved and signed by the

Chair as a correct record.

7. To consider correspondence from Gloucestershire Police concerning the Witcombe Festival and any community concerns

Cllr Gerrard asked whether council should give a view and queried why the Police had only asked for feedback about concerns.

Cllr Harwood requested that more information be available about the festival in order for the Council to be able give an informed view.

It was agreed that all comments made by the public to the Council in relation to the Festival would be passed onto the licensing authorities.

8. To consider arrangements for forthcoming community events:

(a) Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Parry is working with the Royal British Legion and other volunteers to organise this event and the road closure with the support of the Community Administrator. It was agreed that funding not spent on the VE day commemorations could be used to support this event and that in future years a dedicated budget for Remembrance Sunday be set up.

(b) Christmas Fayre

This event is planned for Sat 5 Dec 2020 and would be combined with a switch on event for Christmas lights and the Community Administrator will start work on preparations.

(c) Dates for future community events through to end of 2021

It was noted that due to COVID 19 it would not be possible to run the Autumn Fayre planned for September and that those involved would be notified that it had been cancelled.

The Clerk and Community Administrator would review the calendar of future planned events to ensure that they are scheduled in.

9. To consider options and associated budget for Christmas tree and festive lighting in Brockworth

The Clerk presented the committee with several options for festive lighting and outlined costings. It was agreed that the focus for year 1 would be the community centre and lighting a tree with the intention to gradually extend the lighting display to other areas each year. To fund the new Christmas lights the Committee agreed to use underspends from cancelled community events and to seek approval from Full Council for use of reserves. The Community Administrator would work to gather further quotations and detailed costings to present back to Council.

Cllr Parry left the meeting at this point

10. To receive an update from the Clerk on measures to support the community through COVID-19

The Council continues to provide support to those shielding and has a plan to deal with any requests that may come in over the summer holidays. As restrictions are lifted it is anticipated that free meals will come to an end at the beginning of September.

11. To note that Community Grants have now been launched and are open for applications

a.) To consider a proposed amendment to the youth centre delivery grant to re-purpose an underspend to refurbish computers for use by young people.

Cllr Harwood explained the current situation, works and cost involved and the benefit upgraded laptops could provide. It was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Gerrard and AGREED that an amendment to the grant award to carry out

these works be approved.

12. To consider options to protect the air raid shelter and other heritage assets in the community

Following reports of damage to the air raid shelter and concerns about other important local heritage assets such as the Bishops Bath it was agreed that the Clerk would write to planning enforcement and ask what measures are being taken to protect local heritage assets during construction works and the process for local listing of important community heritage assets.

Cllrs were reminded to report heritage post boxes and phone boxes that were in need of repair to the office who can arrange for the works to be undertaken.

13. To receive an update from the Clerk on the development of a Community Emergency plan

The Community Administrator has started the process to draw up a Community Emergency Plan following the agreed inter-agency template and will report back progress on its development to the committee.

14. To receive any financial reports relating to the work of the committee

No financial reports were presented to the committee

15. To receive a verbal report from the Clerk on any urgent correspondence concerning the work of the committee

The Clerk reported that the new summer newsletter was due from the printers and would be distributed via local outlets and online.

16. The date of the next Community Committee which will be held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 7pm was NOTED

Committee Meeting Closed at 8.30pm