



FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting
held on Tuesday 1st October at the Rufus Centre

Present:

Cllr Toinko (Chairman)

Cllr Platt

Cllr Wilsmore

Cllr Connell

Cllr Livens

Cllr Gleave

Stacie Lockey – Town Clerk (TC) Remotely

Susan Eldred - Community Services and Amenities Manager (CSAM)

Zoe Putwain - Community Services Officer (CSO, ZP)

8 Members of the public attended, 3 remotely

1209. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received by Cllr Thompson due to a personal emergency.

No apologies were received from Cllr Copleston.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Cllr Thompson due to a personal emergency.

Action – Reception

1210. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) No disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item where disclosed.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests - Councilor Livens declared a pecuniary interest in item 9b – Grant as she was a previous recipient of Flitwick Combined Charities.

1211. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made no announcements.

1212. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

The Chairman offered the members of the public the opportunity to speak in the public open session, or to address the Council during item 1217b - Grants, to allow for questions to be made by members in relation to grant applications.

No members of the public addressed Members at this time.

1213. INVITED SPEAKER

There were no invited speakers at the meeting.

1214. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Livens raised a question with regards to benches in the town.

The Town Clerk advised that no further correspondence had been received from CBC in relation to the rural match funding that had previously been secured for benches. The Town Clerk suggested Cllr Livens addressing this matter with Ward Members as the locations that had been identified were not within FTC's remit.

1215. MINUTES

- a. Members received and adopted the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Community Services Minutes held on Tuesday 2nd July with no amendments.

Action – Reception

1216. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Members raised no questions in relation to the minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024**.

1217. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members agreed to move item 1217- b ahead of 1217- a

b. Grants

Members received grant applications, in line with the FTC policy and considered each application.

Members of the public, in attendance were given the opportunity to answer questions and introduce their application. Each application was discussed by Members in turn.

A representative from Ampthill and Flitwick Good Neighbours summarised their application confirming reasons for the requested grant amount of £300, to cover part of the running costs for the operation. Members expressed positive responses in relation to the request and acknowledged that the amount requested was minimal.

The Charity Chums requested £500 towards an overall project cost of £6070 to provide emotional wellbeing support for Flitwick residents. Members acknowledged the worthy benefits of the application, and the low amount requested.

Flitwick Bowls Club representatives addressed the Committee confirming the importance of the work required to replace flagging at the site. The work would aid to increase access and reduce Health and Safety risks. Members discussed the limited numbers of Flitwick residents that use the service, but recognised the importance of the work, to the club members.

Flitwick Combined Charities applied for £500 to allow for relief in need and student support to be offered to Flitwick residents. The committee acknowledged that amount requested was relatively low and had a positive reflection of the charities work.

Imagination Arts, now amended to Imagination Dance, addressed the room remotely, with the request of £4000 to support SEND classes in Flitwick. Members asked for further

information as to the level of Flitwick residents that attended the courses but did not acknowledge the required need for such activities in the area. The application was received positively by the Committee.

A representative from NCT brought to the meeting a baby bundle bag to show members what type of items would be included in the project to supply new baby bundles in Flitwick. The application was to allow for these baby bundles to be issued to Flitwick residents through their collaboration with the children's centre.

Pulloxhill gymnastics explained their application for funding to train Flitwick young people in Gymnastics, including first aid and other qualifications that require outside training. They included information as to the impact of gaining the qualifications. . Members commented that the impact was wide.

Flitwick Scouts application was discussed with the request to purchase storage and tools to care for the green space outside of their building in Flitwick. Discussion occurred as to the siting of a shed and if this would be a temporary location. Members acknowledged that the Scouts did receive a reduced rent site from the Council.

The Sea cadets requested funds towards paddleboards to use at Stewartby lake at a cost of £450 per unit. This cost was reflected on by Members at being too high, and that there were alternative options for this item.

The Girl Guides requested £1000 towards the maintenance of the building at Hetley House. This was discussed and Members felt that again, as the building was on Flitwick Town Council land, support was already being provided to the group.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate the following grants subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant Policy;

Ampthill and Flitwick Good Neighbors - £300
Chums - £500
Flitwick Combined Charities - £500
Imagination Arts/ Dance - £1000
NCT- £1000
Pulloxhill Gymnastics - £1000
Flitwick Bowls Club - £700

Action - CSO (ZP) / FINANCE

Members of the public left the meeting at 9pm

a. Allotment Facilities

Members received and considered a report containing options for installing a portaloos at Steppingley Road and Station Road Allotments during the growing season. The CSAM confirmed on enquiry that the Allotment Representatives were in favour of returning the facilities for 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to install one Portaloos at both Station Road and Steppingley road allotments between 1st April 2025 – 31st October 2025 at a cost of £1745.00 plus vat from the Allotment EMR.

Action – AO

1218. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Community Financial Report

Members received and noted a report from the Senior Finance Officer

b. Officer Update

Members noted the Officer update and raised questions surrounding Manor Park. The CSAM confirmed that a tree survey was scheduled for 21st October with Cllr Wilsmore requesting to be present.

It was mentioned that after the recent weather a tree was lodged over the ditch and as such would need to be moved to limit blockage to the ditch through decay.

c. CBC Highways Partnership Working

Members stated that the face-to-face meetings were worthwhile and that a list of sites to visit at the next meeting would be compiled.

1219. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present

1220. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the Quarterly Youth Provision report to exempt.

- a. Quarterly Youth Provision Report

Members received a report from the youth provider and noted the report.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

The meeting finished at 9.14pm.