

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom conferencing facilities

Present:-

Cllr Mrs L Dedman – Mayor

Cllr Mrs S Bungey – Deputy Mayor

Present: Cllr J Abbott, Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr M Cox, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr W Grace, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr D C Jones, Cllr S J McCormack, Cllr F F T Neale, Cllr G E E Polson, Cllr Mrs S Spittle and Cllr M J Tarling.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs F Cox and Cllr T Lane.

Officers Present: Cllr Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk
Susan Roxby, Administrative Support Officer

Members of the Public present: 2

Members of the Press present: None present.

80. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Charles Stewart opened the proceedings with prayers.

81. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Neale declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 88 (Community Grants) as he was Chairman of the Friends of Christchurch Railway Station and remained present for the discussion, but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

Cllr Mrs Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 89 (Remembrance Secret Knitters) as she was a member of the Bourne Secret Knitters and remained present for the discussion, but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

82. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: unanimous

Announcements

The Mayor

The Mayor announced that since the last meeting of the council, she had been privileged to attend two outdoor occasions relating to the end of the second world war, and that both events had been well attended.

In addition, the Mayor mentioned that a Mayoral visit had usually been arranged to one of the Council's Twin Towns at this time in the year, but unfortunately this had not been possible due to the Corona Virus this year.

The Mayor further announced that a copy of the transfer of the Council's Coat of Arms had been received from the college of arms which had been transferred from the outgoing Borough Council to this Town Council.

The Town Clerk

The Town Clerk updated Members that this Council now owns a Royal Grant of Arms granted on 14 August at St James Palace which had taken a year to arrange via the Queen at St James Palace.

The Mayor and Members thanked Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk for all of the work involved in arranging the transfer of the Grant of Arms to the Town Council.

Members further requested that the honours boards be transferred from the former Borough Council to the Town Council and that Daniel Lucas' name be added to the Town Clerks' Board.

83. Public Participation

The Mayor reported that no Members of the Public had been registered to speak in accordance with the Council's Standing orders.

84. Public Questions

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

85. Questions from Councillors

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

86. Verbal Reports from Partner Organisations

Cllr Hilliard advised that the Red House Museum's quarterly management meeting had recently taken place and that the Red House Museum had opened in July following lock down and had a packed list of exhibits. Cllr Hilliard further advised that the Regent Centre would open in November following lock down and had a packed schedule.

87. Committee Minutes

The Committee Minutes for the last cycle of meetings were received as follows:

Resources Committee, 4 August 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2020 were received.

The recommendation arising from the meeting was considered and approved:

Minute 61: Appointment of Councillor of Resources Committee

Voting: Unanimous

Planning Committee, 18 August 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2020 were received.

Voting: Unanimous

Resources Committee, 8 September 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were received.

Voting: Unanimous

Planning Committee, 15 September 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 were received and following an update to the minutes to be amended at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

Voting: unanimous

88. Community Grants

Following the Community Grants Working Group meeting held via Zoom conferencing facilities on the 14th August 2020, Members considered the recommendations made by the Working Group for Community grants to be awarded.

The Town Clerk advised that the Community Grants uptake had been well received, with grants totalling £15,320 awarded from the Council's allocated budget of £30,000.

RESOLVED that:

A) the following organisations be awarded grants in the sums as follows:

- a) £450 Christchurch Men's Shed**
- b) £2,500 Mundeford Sea Scouts**
- c) £1,040 Flowerfest21**
- d) £1,330 Friends of Druitt Gardens**
- e) £1,000 Water Lily Project**
- f) £2,500 Christchurch Community Partnership**
- g) £2,500 Stompin on the Quomps**
- h) £2,500 Christchurch Foodbank**
- i) £1,500 Christchurch Station; and**

B) delegated to the Town Clerk to issue grant offer letters in accordance with the Community Grant policy and the subsequent administration and payments of the grants as contained in the policy.

Voting: 14:0 (1abstention)

Cllr Neale declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was Chairman of the Friends of Christchurch Station and remained present, but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

89. Remembrance Secret Knitters

The Town Clerk updated Members that a request had been received from the Bourne Secret Knitters to use the Old Town Hall as a space for a Remembrance Day installation of knitted poppies.

RESOLVED that the Town Council grant permission to the Group known as the Bourne Secret Knitters to use the Old Town Hall as a space for a Remembrance Day installation.

Voting: 14:0 (1abstention)

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she was a member of the Bourne Secret Knitters and remained present, but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

Cllr Spittle left the meeting at 7.33pm.

90. A-Boards/Tables and Chairs High Street

The Town Clerk informed Members that this issue was raised by Cllr Lane who had walked along the High Street and found there were 40 different A-boards along the High Street. Members raised concerns regarding the number of applications of A-boards and chairs and tables on the highway as Christchurch had an older demographic, and requested that an enquiry be made at BCP Council as to how many businesses held a chairs and tables licence.

Members felt that either the Town Clerk should write to BCP Council and enquire which businesses had consent and check which licenses had been applied for, or authorise a Town Councillor to raise this question at a BCP Full Council meeting. The Mayor felt that the Town Clerk should write to BCP Council to ask question.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be delegated to write to BCP Council to ask which businesses had permission for A-boards and chairs and tables on Christchurch High Street.

Voting: unanimous

91. Druitt Gardens

Members were asked to consider the email from Cllr Coulton raising matters concerning Druitt Gardens and the partnership between the Town Council and the Friends of Druitt Gardens which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cllr Coulton requested that Druitt Garden’s governance be discussed by the Council so that the necessary work could commence at Druitt Gardens.

Mr Peter Fenning, Chairman of the Friends of Druitt Gardens (FODG), informed Members that FODG had been formed in 2018 and a new constitution formed in 2019. Mr Fenning requested that Cllr Coulton attend the FODG meetings in order to report back to the Town Council as to what projects were required.

Cllr Spittle offered to liaise with the Guides and Brownies to support the FODG and could help out with bat boxes.

Cllr Jones proposed that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the FODG meetings particularly for information gathering, reports, plans, and surveys and report back to the appropriate committee, this was proposal was seconded by Cllr Neale.

Cllr Tarling felt that the Council needed to exercise government structure through the Council’s Community Committee and to follow the health and safety remit. He further felt that information gathering was required regarding tree reports, the former Borough Council’s management plans, Service Level Agreement expectations, and external consultants’ reports for expenditure. Cllr Tarling considered that leafleting and a canvas should be undertaken to obtain the wider opinion in Christchurch to enquire what the public wanted in Druitt Gardens and that the Council should establish a Working Group to arrange projects such as bat boxes.

The Chairman of Resources Committee advised that there was due process that the Town Council needed to follow. He considered it was more appropriate for Cllr Coulton to attend and report back to the Council and not the Town Clerk due to his workload, or the Chairman of Community Committee attend FODG meetings to see what projected were required.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council’s Community Committee Terms of Reference dealt with matters relating to Druitt Gardens and Hall and was responsible for outside spaces and land interests. The Governance was in place by the Community Committee for plans or polices to oversee what was required for the budget and that a Working Group was therefore not required.

Cllr Spittle requested that the FODG’s provide a copy of their constitution to the Council’s Community Committee. The Town Clerk informed Members that the Council held a copy of the FODG’s constitution previously provided for a grant application made to the Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Friends of Druitt Gardens’ meetings particularly in relation to information gathering for reports, plans and surveys and to report back to the appropriate committee.

Voting: unanimous

92. Appointment of Councillor of Community Committee

Town Clerk advised that this agenda item had been withdrawn as a Councillor to Community had already been appointed at the previous Full Council meeting.

93. Resources Committee Membership update

The Town Clerk informed Members that following Cllr Mrs S Bungey's request to vacate her seat on the Resources Committee that Cllr M Cox had been invited to replace her.

RESOLVED that Cllr M Cox be appointed as a Resources Committee member.

Voting: unanimous

94. Government White Paper on Planning for the future

The Chairman of the Planning Committee informed Members that a seminar had been provided by Carol Evans, Planning Consultant on 9 September 2020 regarding the proposed Government reforms, and that a response to the Government's White Paper was required by the Council.

Cllr Jones made the following proposal:

That this council approves the responses and authorises the Town Clerk to reply to the Government White Paper and the separate responses to the multiple-choice questions, and the Town Clerk to make any minor amendments as appropriate in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Planning Committee.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Neale.

RESOLVED that:

- a) this council approves the Town Council's responses;**
- b) authorises the Town Clerk to reply to Government White Paper's separate responses to the multiple-choice questions; and**
- c) the Town Clerk be delegated to make any minor amendments as appropriate in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Planning Committee.**

Voting: unanimous

95. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Volunteer members.

The Town Clerk informed Members that given the interest in the 7 volunteer positions and the application numbers received to date that a Motion proposed by Cllr Jones had been received as follows:

That this Council, noting the interest in the places on the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, establishes a selection panel consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Town Clerk and Mr. M Turvey, to examine the applications and prepare a shortlist of not more than 12 applicants for consideration by the working group and Full Council.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Neale.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Council had received 13 requests for the 7 volunteer positions to date.

RESOLVED that:

- a) this Council, noting the interest in the places on the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, establishes a selection panel consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Town Clerk and Mr M Turvey to examine the applications; and**
- b) prepare a shortlist of not more than 12 applicants for consideration by the Working Group.**

Voting: unanimous

The meeting ended at 8.03pm

CHAIRMAN