

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2021 at 6.00pm at Homelands Hall,
Kings Avenue, Christchurch, BH23 1NA

Present:-

Chairman: Cllr A E Coulton

Vice-Chairman: Cllr G R Jarvis

Present: Cllr Mrs S Bungey, Cllr V Charrett, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr S McCormack and Cllr Mrs S Spittle.

Apologies: Cllr L Dedman and Cllr W Grace.

Officers present: Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk
Susan Roxby, Democratic Services Officer

Members of the Public present: 7

Members of the Press present: 0

58. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

59. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meetings of held on 16 February 2021, 31 March 2021, 13 April 2021, and extraordinary meetings held on 23 April 2021 and 17 June 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record subject to:

Cllr Jarvis upon answering questions from the Town Clerk confirmed and clarified that her declaration of interest made on 23 April 2021 was incorrect. Cllr Jarvis explained that she is simply a member of Christchurch Citizens Association and apologised for the error.

Minute no. 294 on 23 April 2021 (Public Participation) to be amended to read 'a Trustee of Druitt Hall Community Association.'

Cllr Spittle joined the meeting at 6.03pm.

60. Public Participation

2 electors read statements to Members relating to minute number 62. (Druitt Hall).

61. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

62. Druitt Hall

The Town Clerk submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' and survey report as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members had 2 Survey reports to consider which approach the Council should take for maintenance/repair or rebuild options.

A trustee of Druitt Hall Community Association (DHCA) raised concerns that there were further costs to be considered. He stated that the roof was sound and not leaking and there was no asbestos in the building and the remainder of building was in a robust condition. The Trustees were committed to maintaining the hall and would like the funding for the cost of refurbishing the windows considered, and hoped the Council would show support by granting funding to continue the Hall's use. He raised further concerns as to how the Town Council would service a loan for a new building.

An elector stated that Druitt Hall was an established town centre hall and raised concerns about the hall needing replacement. He felt that the Town Council should visit the hall to see the volunteers at work painting and maintaining the hall at no cost to the Council. He felt that the considerable amount of borrowing required by Town Council to replace the hall and to rebuild with a 2-storey new hall was not the answer. He stated that the Town Centre strategy envisaged glazing in of the lower arches of the Town Hall and he suggested this be invested to provide office space.

Mr Elcock stated that Druitt Hall was in a good state of repair and needed to be maintained and would be fit for purposes for up to 30 years.

Members considered that the hall was loved by residents and raised concerns that the community could not do without the use of the building for 2 years during any rebuilding.

Cllr Mrs Spittle proposed a motion that the windows be refurbished, this motion was seconded by Cllr Mrs Bungey.

RESOLVED that the Council approves the refurbishment of Druitt Hall windows and the cost taken from the £40,000 earmarked in reserves for the refurbishment.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council the replacement of Druitt Hall roof in principle and the extension of the 30-year lease.

Voting: unanimous

63. BCP grass cutting - open spaces.

Members were updated on BCP Council's changes to the way some green spaces across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area were managed.

Ward Councillors were invited to provide feedback from residents about problem areas and report to the Town Clerk to register on a spreadsheet to be considered at a future Community Committee at the end of the summer.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- a) welcomed the opportunity to comment on BCP's Green Strategy and will monitor and update on Facebook; and
- b) delegate to the Town clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman to request mowing of Town Council sites in line with the Service Level agreement.

Voting: unanimous

64. Scotts Hill Lane Playpark

Cllr McCormack updated members on the lease position for Scotts Hill Lane Playpark.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council did not have the budget to maintain the Playpark and that the precept would need to be increased to fund the maintenance.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that The Town Council:

- a) step-in to the Scotts Hill Lane Playpark lease position currently occupied by BCP Council; and

- b) writes to BCP Council conveying the strong desire and wish to take responsibility for the site; and
- c) considers allocation from Community Infrastructure Levy a capital expenditure project to bring Scotts Hill Lane Play Park back into safe use.

Voting: unanimous

65. Traffic in Sopers Lane

Two letters received from a resident were submitted, copies of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendices 'C' and 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were informed of concerns raised by a resident for speeding along Sopers Lane.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a Speed Indicator Device in Sopers Lane could be considered as a deterrent to speeding and that the Community Speed Safety Partnership could get the public involved in this initiative.

A member stated that speed humps should be considered, another member felt that the school and residents should be consulted if speed humps were to be considered.

RESOLVED that the Town Council approach BCP Council requesting the installation of a Speed Indicator Device in Sopers lane.

Voting: unanimous

66. Coring Survey in DrUITT Gardens

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendices 'E' and 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members noted the Notice of the proposed works and rationale for coring at DrUITT Gardens by Christchurch Antiquarians.

RESOLVED that Members noted the Notice of the proposed works and rationale for coring at DrUITT Gardens by Christchurch Antiquarians.

67. Strategic Plan- quarter 1 report

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendices 'G' and 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were asked to consider the Council's Strategic Plan achievements for quarter 1.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Plan- quarter 1 report be noted.

68. Zyair Circus

Members were informed of a complaint from a resident concerning the Zyair circus and the impact it had upon residents who lived close to where the event was held.

RESOLVED that the Zyair Circus complaint be noted following Ward Councillors' intervention and Council notes to invite residents to a future Planning and Regulatory Committee should there be future approaches from the Circus to be held on the Quomps.

69. BCP Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy – Parks and Open Spaces

Members were asked to consider BCP Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy and resolve a response from the Council accordingly.

RESOLVED that the Town Council delegated to the Town Clerk to write to BCP Council with the following response:

Promote more biodiversity initiatives in parks, to consider and provide more thought to the concessions and/or commercialisation of open spaces; and to celebrate the diversity and different types of parks/open spaces in Christchurch.

Voting: unanimous

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT