

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 August 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 L Dedman, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr W Grace, Cllr S McCormack and Cllr Mrs S Spittle.

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

Members of the Public present: 7

Members of the Press present: 0

120. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute no. 128 (Avon and Friars Cliff Beaches -Seaweed) as she owned a beach hut at 89B Avon Beach and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Mrs Bungey declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute no. 128 (Avon and Friars Cliff Beaches -Seaweed) as she owned a beach hut at 97 Fryers Cliff and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Mrs Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute no. 131 (Tuttons Well – Guide Hut Culvert) as her mother in her capacity as District Commissioner had installed the original Guide Hut and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Mrs Spittle and Cllr Mrs Bungey joined the meeting at 6.01pm

121. Public Participation

A resident spoke on minute no. 127. (Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Sopers Lane Christchurch).

122. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

123. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: unanimous

124. Trees at the Quomps

The Chairman requested an update on the planting of 2 Common Alder trees at the Quomps, one of which would be dedicated to the memory of Honorary Freeman Cllr Colin Bungey.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that he was liaising with Cllr Mrs Sue Bungey regarding a large specimen tree to be planted.

RESOLVED that Members noted the verbal update.

125. Notice boards at Druitt Gardens and Old Town Hall which may need Listed Building Consent.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a bespoke notice board which would be more befitting for Druitt Gardens could be considered.

Members questioned why a free-standing notice board outside the Town Hall was not being considered, the Town Clerk advised that a free-standing notice board may need listed Building Consent and a free-standing one may cause problems in terms of the setting of the listed status of the Town Hall.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Town Clerk be delegated to investigate the planning possibility of a notice board for the Old Town Hall which is sympathetic and in-keeping with the listed building with BCP Council and report back to a future meeting of Resources; and**
- 2) re-locate the Druitt Gardens Noticeboard at Wick Lane entrance to a new site in Druitt Gardens after discussion with the Friends of Druitt Gardens.**

Voting: unanimous

126. **Tables & Chairs & ‘A’ Boards – Section 151 Highways Act 1980**

The Chairman updated Members that she had visited the High Street and noted all the A boards and tables and chairs that were on the pavements. She had written to Highways Officer, who has been extremely helpful. ‘A’ Boards were allowed on the High Street as long as they were touching the actual shop that they were advertising. The Council needs to know who had a licence to allow them to put tables and chairs on the path. Only three had approval, Kelly’s Kitchen, MAW and Patisserie. 21 other shops had either ‘A’ boards, or tables and chairs or both.

The Chairman further advised that BCP Highways Officers had visited Christchurch High Street and spoken with the premises in question regarding the ‘A’ boards which were blocking the footpath. They were informed of BCP’s Council ‘A’ board Policy. This is something BCP have added to their monitor list to ensure all premises remain compliant. Officers were unable to access The Ship and Priory Fryer as both were closed at the time of the visit so these will be revisited during opening hours. Coast Coffee had made an application.

The Chairman revisited the High Street last week and many of the businesses had taken notice of the Highways Officers, but some were just flouting the ruling. When BCP Officers are next in the area they will be spoken to again.

BCP Highways are currently awaiting approval for a storage area to allow them to take further enforcement action on premises who flout the rules. This means they will be able to start confiscating ‘A’ Boards and tables and chairs from such premises.

RESOLVED that the verbal update was noted.

127. **Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Sopers Lane Christchurch**

The Town Clerk submitted automated traffic count data spreadsheets for Sopers Lane and Willow Drive, copies of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were updated on concerns raised by a resident for speeding along Sopers Lane and the recent response received from BCP Road Safety Team.

BCP advised that resources are stretched and therefore unable to say if they were able to procure a SID for this site, although the Town Council may be

able to help with funding a SID which would cost approximately £4,000 - £5,000.

A resident spoke raising concerns for speeding, stating that cars were travelling along Sopers Lane in excess of 30 miles per hour and also raised concerns for traffic congestion. He was disappointed with the response from BCP. He asked the council if there was anything that could be done

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council would work collectively with BCP to get some action and write to the School Headmaster to see if they had concerns for the speed of traffic, and could also consult with residents and businesses.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Clerk be delegated to write to BCP to enquire how many SIDs are allocated to the Christchurch area;**
- b) write to Twynham School Headmaster to if enquire if they would support traffic speeding concerns; and**
- c) liaise with BCP regarding the way forward for speeding concerns along Sopers Lane Christchurch.**

Voting: unanimous

128. Avon and Friars Cliff Beaches -Seaweed

Cllr Mrs Spittle informed members that BCP were contacted regarding the seaweed and that 1 skip at Avon Beach had been filled with seaweed, but there was still a lot of seaweed on the beach. She enquired how this Council would progress in the future with this issue and whether BCP had a policy for clearing litter on the beaches. Cllr Spittle felt that the Noisy Lobster business needed to meet with BCP Council and the Environment agency on site to discuss this issue. Cllr Mrs Spittle further informed the committee that there may be the possibility of a misconnected sewer causing problems.

Members questioned how the former Christchurch Borough Council had dealt with seaweed clearance from the beaches in previous years.

The Town Clerk suggested that Members question how much had been spent on Bournemouth and Poole beaches clearance of seaweed.

Cllr Spittle proposed a motion that a meeting be arranged on site with Officers and Cllrs Coulton, Spittle, Jarvis, Dedman, Bungey, and Hilliard to discuss the state of the beaches during the summer of 2021. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Dedman.

RESOLVED that:

- a) a meeting be arranged on site with Officers and Cllrs Coulton, Spittle, Jarvis, Dedman, Bungey and Hilliard to discuss the state of the beaches during the summer of 2021;
- b) BCP's policy regarding this matter be discussed;
- c) the Environment Agency be invited to attend the meeting;
- d) press Wessex Water to continue with misconnected sewer investigation; and
- e) the BCP Portfolio holder for Christchurch be invited to attend the meeting.

Voting: unanimous

Cllr Mrs Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute no. 128 (Avon and Friars Cliff Beaches -Seaweed) as she owned a beach hut at 89B Avon Beach and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Mrs Bungey declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute no. 128 (Avon and Friars Cliff Beaches -Seaweed) as she owned a beach hut at 97 Fryers Cliff and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

129. **Christmas Lights**

Town Clerk informed Members that a new Project Officer was being interviewed and if appointed would work with the Task and Finish Group to discuss arrangements for the Christmas lights.

RESOLVED that the Committee creates a Task & Finish Group comprising of no more than 5 members of Community Committee to oversee and facilitate the work of Officers concerning this matter with the following membership:

Cllr G Jarvis

Cllr S McCormack

Cllr L Dedman

Cllr C Gardiner

Cllr V Charrett

Voting: unanimous

130. **Druitt Gardens**

The Chairman provided Members with an update from the Christchurch Antiquarians and advised that they were awarded a grant by the Town Council to conduct subsurface samples using a small drill. Permission had been obtained from Historic England and plans were being made to carry out the work later this year following further discussions with the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) a post and rail fence be installed at the boundary running along the North-East to South-West and adjacent to a neighbouring property and a budget of £4,500 (exc VAT) be set-aside for this; the Town Clerk be authorised to discuss with the neighbours any concerns about location and position of the fence;**
- 2) the town clerk contact BCP Planning policy to see if this would be a good use of Community Infrastructure Levy.**
- 3) Ground Elder clearance takes place in this area which shall require specialist contractors and a budget of £2,500 (exc VAT) be allocated for this work;**
- 4) Fees for hire and delivery of machinery such as rotavators be included £300 (exc VAT);**
- 5) Replacement Tree planting is required following 3 trees which have been felled (1 the subject of Tree Works notification: 8/21/0609/REG14 – Holm Oak adjacent to the Creedy Path) and the further loss of a Sycamore during inclement weather adjacent to the Green Man Tree. Further the Friends of DrUITT Gardens have been approached by the Women’s Institute and a resident who have requested x2 commemorative trees. In response x6 Common Oaks be purchased to replace these losses at a cost of £100 per tree (exc delivery and VAT) and £100 for tree stakes/straps (£700 exc VAT and delivery). That the Town Clerk discuss with the WI and the resident of reducing Council costs by way of benefactor contributions for these 2 trees;**
- 6) a Crab Apple tree that is seriously damaged by the path between Warne’s areas 3 and 4 be replaced and a budget of £200 be set-aside for this replacement (exc VAT and delivery); and**
- 7) to increase pollinators in the Gardens more wildflowers, small shrubs and bulbs are required. Warne’s Area 3 is currently open grassland and has a good display of spring Crocus, Snow Drop and Daffodil, but after this period no real attractors. Working with the Friends of DrUITT Gardens a plan is currently being compiled to detail an approach to this area and neighbouring areas in terms of wildflower planting. It is**

estimated that a budget of £1,500 (exc VAT) be set aside for this work. Total Budget to be ear-marked = £9,700 (exc VAT and Delivery charges).

Voting: unanimous

131. Tuttons Well – Guide Hut Culvert

Cllr Jarvis raised concerns that following a meeting she had with a trustee of Tuttons Well Guide Hut, that the culvert at Tuttons Well Guide Hut required maintenance.

Members were informed that the Town Council owned the Guide Hut and this was leased to the Guides.

A Trustee of Tuttons Well Guide hut stated that surface water drainage had been diverted by Wessex Water into the culvert. The friends of Tutton Well Committee had discussed on 5 Jan 1999 at a meeting that bore holes had been created at the culvert.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- a) immediately reinstates the grate;**
- b) immediately reinstates a sign on a pole which explains the dangers; and**
- c) delegates to the Town Clerk to Contact Wessex water to request that they rod out the drain to clear it.**

Voting: unanimous

Cllr Mrs Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she was an Ambassador for Guiding as her mother in her capacity as District Commissioner had installed the original Guide Hut and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

132. Access to BCP Departments

The Chairman withdrew her request to bring this item to committee.

133. Exempt Business

RESOLVED to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the matter relating to the personal information of the matter relating to living individuals.

Voting: unanimous

134. **Complaint received by a resident of Christchurch (Exempt)**

The Town Clerk updated Members on a complaint received by a Christchurch resident.

The meeting ended at 8.01pm

CHAIRMAN