

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 January 2023 at 6.00pm at Christchurch Library, Room 14, High Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AW

Present:-

Chairman: Cllr S McCormack

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs S Bungey

Present: Cllr V Charrett, Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr R D Luscombe and Cllr Mrs S Spittle.

Apologies: Cllr C A Gardiner and Cllr W Grace.

Officers present: Zeynep Aktuna, Democratic Services Officer
Vanessa Ricketts, Interim Town Clerk

Members of the Public present: 3

Members of the Press present: 0

255. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 268 'Tuttons Well' as the Ambassador of the Guides, and in Minute No. 269 'Christchurch Food Festival BID Application' as the Council's representative of the BID.

256. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 25 October 2022 and 13 December 2022 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr Coulton
Seconded: Cllr Charrett

257. Public Participation

Christina Pengelly, the Manager of the Christchurch BID, updated Members regarding the Agenda Item 16 'Christchurch Food Festival BID Application' and

the details of the planned event. She explained that the event would take place on the weekend (27-28 May 2023) on the High Street and would be run alongside the Food Festival taking place at the Quomps. She stressed that the purpose of the event was to support local food retailers by encouraging them to sell small, tapas style versions of their usual menus. She explained that the BID was planning road closures, subject to residents' agreements, for the visitors to sit and enjoy the local food and that BCP had agreed to close the roads for 48 hours.

She explained that the BID was committed to pay £5,000 for the events and requested £1,500 to be provided by the Council. She explained that this would be used for road closure fees and operations, security, stewards, rubbish collection/disposal and advertising.

258. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

259. Update on the Quomps Task and Finish Group

The Interim Town Clerk updated Members on the work undertaken by the Quomps Task and Finish Group. She explained that the Group met up on 21 November 2022 with the attendance of residents, event organizers, representatives of BCP, BID, Christchurch Residents Association and the Council's Members and officers. She explained that during the meeting the attendees had the opportunity to express their concerns, experiences, and ideas about the events at the Quomps. The attendees also considered the Christchurch Borough Council's 'Use of Open Spaces Policy' which included several covenants on the Quomps providing various restrictions (e.g., the frequency and number of events that can take place in a calendar month, the number of enclosed events). She underlined that, on preparing the new policy that would be based on the CBC's Use of Open Spaces Policy, the Council liaised with BCP to make sure that the policy would be acceptable, the various restrictive covenants and by-laws were still in place and active, and that the pricing structure was comparative to other areas within the conurbation. She advised that the draft policy was to be sent out to all Members of the Group on 6 January 2023 for their consideration.

The Interim Town Clerk explained, although the Quomps policy would be a separate document, the Council also developed similarly formatted policies for all the assets currently in the Council's ownership together with policies for assets currently being negotiated with BCP. She suggested these would be rolled out in due course as those assets would come on board.

The Interim Town Clerk explained that the draft policy would potentially be brought into the extraordinary Full Council scheduled for 6 February 2023.

Members noted the update on the Quomps Task and Finish Group.

260. Partnership with Christchurch and District Sports Council

A Member recommended that Christchurch and District Sports Council contacts the Parish Councils themselves without involving the Council.

Agreed that the Council does not take further action on this matter.

261. Update on Community Grants Scheme Applications

The Interim Town Clerk updated Members that the Community Grants Working Group met up on 21 December 2022 to consider all 15 applications received and advised that the recommendation would be coming to the Full Council of 16 January 2023.

Members noted the update on Community Grants Scheme Applications.

262. Defibrillators

Cllr Charrett advised Members about the defibrillator that was purchased by the Carnival Committee to be located on the public toilets at the Quomps but explained that it was never used as planned. She questioned the potential places that the idle defibrillator could be used.

Members acknowledged the critical importance of defibrillator to save lives but also highlighted the need for an effective signage to indicate the defibrillators' locations in town. A Member referred to a recent incident where a patient collapsed on the High Street and that people were not able to locate the nearest defibrillator despite being advised the location by 999. He thus argued there was no point in having a defibrillator if people did not know where it was.

A further Member highlighted the importance of regular maintenance to make sure that the defibrillator would be up to standard. The Interim Town Clerk informed Members about The Circuit (The National Defibrillator Network) and explained that all defibrillator owners were required to register with The Circuit and to fulfil their various responsibilities (i.e., log keeping/signing, regular investigation, and

maintenance). She explained that the Carnival Committee's defibrillator would need to be serviced by the new owner before being used.

A Member proposed that the Council liaises with the BID to provide a list of all defibrillators in town and produces a poster of all locations to be displayed on the Council's notice boards and on the Town Hall. This proposal was not seconded. Some Members felt that it was not the Council's responsibility to do this as the list would need to be regularly updated to make sure that all listed defibrillators were up and running, and that the Council would be responsible in the case a listed defibrillator fails.

The Interim Town Clerk advised Members that one of the Community Grants Scheme applicants was currently looking funding for a defibrillator. Members discussed that the applicant could liaise with the Christchurch Carnival Committee regarding the acquisition of the Carnival's defibrillator.

Agreed that Cllr Charrett, as the Chair of the Carnival Committee, liaises with the Community Grants Scheme applicant regarding the possibility of them taking on the defibrillator.

263. Legacy Path at Gundimore Beach

Cllr Coulton updated Members that BCP stated they would not provide any funding/support for the upkeep of the Legacy Path.

Agreed that no further action be taken on this matter.

264. Installation of a Bridge at Watermans Park

The Chairman of the Community Committee informed Members about the bridge project at Watermans Park. He explained that the park currently had only one entrance/exit and advised that the bridge would have various positive impacts including:

- enhancing the potential of the park to hold largescale events and helping to relocate some of the events from the Quomps,
- improving the park's connection with its surrounding area and providing an easy access to the Sainsbury's,
- helping better tackle with deprivation in Somerford area by enhancing the park's access and connectivity,
- making the park safer.

The Chairman also highlighted that the Skatepark that the Council would take on from BCP would greatly benefit from the bridge.

The Chairman advised Members about a quote (£85,000) received for the bridge and provisionally asked Members if the Council would cover half of this cost through CIL money by stating that he would approach BCP for the other half of the cost. He explained that more information would be available in the future.

Members questioned the dimensions and location of the bridge. The Chairman proposed to arrange a site visit to the Watermans Park to understand the idea.

RESOLVED that the Community Committee arranges a site visit to the Watermans Park.

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr McCormack

Seconded: Cllr Jarvis

265. Update from Christmas Lights Working Group

The Project Officer updated Members on the various issues that was faced during the installation of the Christmas Lights and explained that the contract was not fully met. He mentioned various commitments that the contractor failed to fulfil and stated that the company did not have enough site visits and that the communication with the company was poor. He also advised Members that the Working Group Members were going to meet up with the contractor on 24th January 2023 to evaluate the work undertaken.

Members stated that the Christmas Lights were very successful, and they received excellent feedback from the community. Members appreciated the extra effort put by the Project Officer and expressed thanks to him due to his hard work and commitment to the project.

The Chairman explained, despite the brilliant feedback received, he was disappointed with the contractor's work and stated that the result could have been a lot better if things had gone as agreed. He advised that he would bring this up in the next meeting with the contractor to make sure they do not repeat it in the coming years.

Members also touched upon the problem with the electric system on the Fountain Roundabout and discussed that the Council could liaise with BCP to ask for their support to fix the problem. Members considered that the Council could use the CIL money to fix the problem if BCP would not agree to offer support. Project Officer stated that he would investigate the costs to fix the problem.

Members noted the update from Christmas Lights Working Group.

266. Minor Maintenance Jobs and Disposal of Items at Town Hall

The Chairman updated Members on the state of the Town Hall and highlighted the items that require repair and items that could be disposed of. He listed various white goods (e.g., dishwasher, fan, kettle, filter coffee machine) that had failed the PAT tests and stated that they were disposed of by a white-good removal contractor. He suggested, in return, that the Council purchases 30 Town Council branded mugs, a set of utensils, a dishwasher, a filter coffee machine, and a microwave to replace the disposed items.

Members agreed the Town Hall was an important asset of the town and the Council and discussed various items that need to be repaired or renewed, for example:

- Roof
- Kitchen cupboards
- Carpets
- Stonework on the balcony
- Toilets (ceilings)
- Silverware
- Under the arches of the Town Hall (requires to be painted)

Some Members suggested that the existing silverware could be considered before buying a new set of utensils.

The Chairman advised Members that the repair of the Roof was scheduled for 2023 (spring or summer).

RESOLVED that the Council purchases 30 Town Council branded mugs, a set of utensils, a dishwasher, a filter coffee machine, and a microwave.

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr McCormack

Seconded: Cllr Bungey

267. Update on the Barrack Road Recreation Ground Pavilion Demolition Progress

The Chairman updated Members that the Pavilion had been demolished.

Members noted the update.

268. Tuttons Well

Members considered the flooding issues at Tuttons Well. A Member questioned whether cheaper solutions to tackle with the flooding at Tuttons Well would be available.

The Project Officer updated Members about the background of the flooding issues at the site and explained that flooding could not be stopped but the drainage could be speeded up. He advised Members about the solution offered by a specialist company who proposed to dig a trench from the existing pipe to the sea to speed up the drainage and stated that it would cost around £10,000. The Interim Town Clerk informed Members about the historical flooding issues at Tuttons Well and explained that Christchurch Borough Council was not able to find an effective solution to deal with the issue despite various efforts and high costs spent.

Members discussed the idea of having a grid to cover the dipping pond – the grid must allow access to maintenance.

A Member suggested that this matter was also being discussed under BCP Coastal Strategy (Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy) works and stated that they could come up with other suggestions. A further Member supported this and suggested that the BCP should consider this matter comprehensively including the whole coast and the Harbour. The Interim Town Clerk advised Members about the meeting the Council would have with BCP Coastal Strategy team on 12 January 2023.

The Chairman suggested that the Guides Leader be requested to monitor the site for two seasons, and that the Project Officer investigates the grid costs.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Guides Leader be requested to monitor the site for two seasons and**
- b) the Project Officer investigates the grid costs.**

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr McCormack

Seconded: Cllr Bungey

269. Christchurch Food Festival BID Application

Following the public statement made by the Manager of the BID, Members supported the idea as it would support local food and businesses and would have

a positive impact on supporting the livelihood of the High Street. Members asked some questions regarding the number and locations of the stalls.

A Member suggested that the BID should also liaise with the Priory Church to make sure that the events and the road closure would not create undesired effects on the Church and its visitors. Ms Pengelly advised that she would be happy to bring this up with the Vicar.

A Member proposed that the BID's request should be supported by the Council provided that the BID updates the Council about the number of the stalls as well as their locations.

RECOMMENDED to the Full Council that the Council provides funding of £1,500 to the BID's Food Festival event to be used in road closure, security, stewards, rubbish collection/disposal and advertising expenses on condition that the BID informs the Council about the number and location of the stalls.

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr Spittle

Seconded: Cllr Charrett

The meeting ended at 8.11pm

CHAIRMAN