

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

**Held on Monday 17 September 2018
at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

Present

Councillor: Cllr C Holliday (Chairman)

Councillors: A K Beames D S T Enright
 C Brown A D Harvey
 B J Churchill J S King (sub H W Chirgwin)
 D Temple

Officers: Mrs Sharon Groth - Town Clerk
 Mr John Hickman - Operations and Estates Officer
 Mrs Polly Inness - Communications Officer
 Mrs Nicky Cayley - Democratic Services Officer

C469 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his absence was received from Cllr Chirgwin due to a conflicting engagement.

C470 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Holliday declared an interest in any item relating to the Langdale Hall as he was an employee, although there was no item relating to this on the agenda.

C471 MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- b) **MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2018.

C472 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present for this item.

C473 LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS REQUESTS

The Committee received and considered the report of the P.A to the Mayor and Town Clerk as circulated with the agenda. This clarified the situation relating to bin requests across the town following discussions with West Oxfordshire District Council's waste contractor, UBICO.

Currently UBICO was undertaking an audit and no further bin requests from the Town Council would be considered until this was completed and a schedule for the replacement of old bins established.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted;
- 2) that the requests for bins on Town Council land be scheduled into long term aspirations;
- 3) that Town Clerk writes to the other organisations and authorities with relevant requests received to ask if they would consider the requests, once WODC's audit had been completed;
- 4) that the Town Clerk requests a copy of the completed bin audit.

C474 **TREES**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer as circulated with the agenda. The Tree Survey had not yet arrived and the Tree Officer at WODC had yet to reply about the situation with the Cedar of Lebanon.

A member complained about a tree with overhanging branches at Thorney Leys close to B and Q which was on Thames Water land by a drainage hole. The Town Clerk offered to write to Thames Water on the Council's behalf.

Another member commented that he had become frustrated with Fix My Street as the stock response from OCC was "this is not OCC's responsibility". Following discussions, he understood that this would change in future and asked if the Town Council picked up any such requests. The Town Clerk replied that officers frequently did pick up issues that were not the Town Council's responsibility and always tried to direct enquiries to the appropriate place/authority.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

C475 **PRESS COVERAGE**

The Committee received and considered an update on press coverage.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

C476 **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Communications Officer as circulated with the agenda.

Members liked the idea of running another mental health awareness day and thought that perhaps the Youth Council may want to get involved if the focus was on young people. Other suggestions were for Synolos, the Guidepost Trust and perhaps the ICE Centre to get involved. A meeting with all may be a good idea.

The Communications Officer also informed members that Cotswold District Council were hosting a health event and had invited the Town Council to have a stand, whether manned by a councillor or unmanned. It could showcase the Council's sporting facilities and perhaps

the Lake and Country Park. It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer should send a Doodle Poll round to establish councillor availability for the event.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted;
- 2) that a mental health awareness event should be run, covering young people;
- 3) that members' availability to man a stall at the Cotswold District Council health event be established.

C477 **BUS SHELTER ARTWORK PROJECT**

The Committee received and considered the verbal update from the Communications Officer, and also an anonymous complaint about the artwork for the bus shelter at the top of Newland/Oxford Hill. It was acknowledged that this artwork did look like advertising, which was certainly not the intention. The lead councillor for the project commented that it had been a learning curve for all involved and in future the Town Council would have more control over the artwork.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted;

C478 **PRODUCTION OF THRUSH GREEN ON WOOD GREEN 2019**

The Town Clerk informed members that Cllr Morris had met with the organisers and the Round Table was now keen to be involved. Cllr Morris had asked if the Town Council would be able to provide an EMP but she had replied that this would not be possible as it would not be a Council event and there could be potential conflict. There may be some financial requirements from the Town Council but this could be looked at during the budget setting process.

RECOMMENDED: that the update be noted.

C479 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTIES**

- a) Christmas Lights Working Party – 3 September 2018

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the working party held on 3 September 2018.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes be noted and the recommendations contained therein be implemented.

- b) WW1 Working Party – 11 September 2018

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the working party held on 11 September 2018.

Thanks were recorded to Polly Inness and Adam Clapton who had been outstanding in their work towards the commemoration and also to the Chairman of the Working Party who had helped to ensure that the event would be truly memorable.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes be noted and the recommendations contained therein be implemented.

c) In Bloom Working Party – 12 September 2018

The Committee received and considered the notes of the inquorate working party held on 12 September 2018. As the working party had been inquorate, the Community Services Committee approved all recommendations contained within the notes of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes be noted and the recommendations contained therein be approved and implemented.

d) Events Working Party – 20 September 2018

The Committee received and considered a verbal update of the meeting held earlier that evening.

RECOMMENDED: that the verbal update be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Chairman.