



Devizes Town Council

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Community & Civic Resources Committee

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2018

Time: Immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

The Town Mayor (Councillor Carter)

Chairman: Councillor Bridewell

Councillors: Burton
Geddes
Nash
Von Berg

Corbett
Godwin
Rose

Evans
Hopkins
Stevens

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2 January 2018 and which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

5. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

A Schedule of Accounts Paid is attached for information (doc 5/1 – doc 5/2).

6. NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2017/2018

See attached doc 6/1.

7. WILTSHIRE POLICE – COMMUNITY POLICING ONE TEAM, DECEMBER 2017

Issued alongside this agenda.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – RURAL POLICING

Following the circulation of the last CPT Police report Councillor Shaw raised a question about what she believes is a lack of action on illegal fox hunting against the concentration on hare coursing.

Officers forwarded Councillor Shaw's concerns to the Neighbourhood Policing team who have provided the response below from Marc Jackson, who is part of the Rural Crime Team.

“The individuals involved in hare coursing in particular are usually members or part of groups/gangs which work across a number of counties in the South West. Those individuals would be classed by the Police as Level 2 offenders. Which means they are involved in a variety of crimes across county borders ranging from Burglaries, Thefts, Violence, Trading standard offences and other such offences, often targeting the most vulnerable in society which includes those living in remote locations such as farms on Salisbury plain.

So the issue of Poaching/Hare coursing is not necessarily about the issue of chasing wildlife for blood sport or Bets, but about disrupting serious criminal activity at a county level. This is not the poacher taking the one for the pot anymore, it is about serious organised crime.

Many farmers / farm workers do not own the land and are not the landowner, but they are the ones who have to deal with the threats and intimidation from these individuals. I am sure that the Councillor would agree with me that if this was an individual who lived within Devizes town, and had daily if not sometimes hourly visits from gangs who caused criminal damage, made threats to burn down your property or assaulted you and your family there would be a public up roar around this and questioned ask about what the Police was doing to protect those individuals.

The issue of Fox Hunting has and always will be a contentious one, mainly due to the many political issues that surround the issue. The Police as always sit firmly in the middle and do not take sides. Where possible Hunts will be attended by myself or other officers to show a presence and observe any activity by the hunts themselves and also of those who choose to monitor the hunts.

We have and will continue to investigate any reports of criminal activity by the hunts. Previously evidence of a high standard has been presented to the force by outside agencies such as the LACS, which was used to bring about a prosecution against a Hunt that operated within Wiltshire. If such evidence is presented again, then an investigation will be conducted and enquires made with the Hunt highlighted. Unfortunately much of the evidence passed to us would not pass the evidence threshold test to allow any prosecution to get to court.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING

Councillor Wooldridge attended the Health and Wellbeing meeting on the 9 January. Set out below is his report.

The main discussion was on the community area “Wellbeing Day”, to be held on the Small Green in Devizes. The date for this will be 21st June 2018, running from 2pm to 7pm. Event plans has been drawn up and contact has been made with organisation who may wish to book a stall at the event. There are 18 confirmed clubs and agencies, with many more still coming in. Devizes Rotary Club will be providing refreshments throughout the day. If anyone can display a poster, please contact Cllr Wooldridge.

There will also be the second Silver Screen Club on the 8th Feb 2018. The venue will be the Hub in Sheep Street, Devizes.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – THIRD INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2017-18

The attached document provides details of the third 2017-18 internal audit report prepared by Alistair Morrison of AM Financial Services Ltd regarding Devizes Town Council.

11. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – WATER TROUGHS

In response to a recent suggestion by the Town Mayor, officers have made enquiries into the provision of additional water troughs at Quakers Walk, Devizes.

Officers are suggesting polycarbonate troughs in preference to galvanised water tanks which are considerably more expensive and do not come with internal fittings as standard.

Two polycarbonate troughs, internal and external fittings and the hire of a mini digger is considered likely to be in the region of £500. There is sufficient underspend in this cost centre to enable these works to be undertaken in the current financial year.

Our own Open Spaces Team have the skills to undertake the installation and fitting and as such these works will be placed in their work schedule.

12. REPORT FOR DECISION – FREE USE OF THE CORN EXCHANGE FOR AN EXHIBITION TO MARK THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Recommendation

That the Committee decides if it wishes to support an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF

Purpose of the Report

To consider a free use request for the Corn Exchange.

Background

The Council has been approached by Mr Robin Mitchell, a retired RAF officer who is planning to put on a free exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF.

The exhibition will cover most aspects of the founding, development, and operation of the RAF during the last 100 odd years. There will be special reference to the role of Wiltshire (which is regarded as the cradle of British aviation) during these years. There will be no charge for entry for anyone who wishes to attend, but donations will be accepted for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Whilst Mr Mitchell is covering the costs for much of the preparation, to date from his own pocket, he is not able to finance the hire of the exhibition space should the Council not be able to support the event by providing the Corn Exchange free of charge.

The event itself will run over the Easter Weekend (31 March and 1 April 2018).

Mr Mitchell is requesting that the Council supports the event, by allowing him to use the Corn Exchange free of charge. Also he has also asked that he can store exhibits up to 4 days before the event and 2 day after the event but he would need to work around existing hirers. The storage requirement would be for approximately 30 square meters of floor space, during which period exhibits will be arriving from museums and other loaners around the South of England.

The Council is working with a number of partners to develop a programme of commemorative events to mark the end of WW1 and whilst this is not specifically WW1 related, it does fit the historical period and there may be an opportunity to link the two events

Options Considered

The Committee needs to decide if it wishes to support the event by providing free use of the Corn Exchange.

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of the Corn Exchange will be charged to the venues free hire cost centre (£2662 at the Community rate).

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

13. REPORT FOR DECISION – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY THE DEVIZES YOUTHY

Recommendation

That the committee considers a request by Devizes Youthy for financial support for a second youth worker.

Purpose of the Report

To consider a funding request by Devizes Youthy for funding.

Background

Officers have received a request from organisers of the Devizes Youthy for financial support towards additional staff.

Devizes Youthy is a local youth club for 13 – 18 year olds that meets weekly during school term times in the Southbroom Centre, next to the Leisure Centre.

They are discussing the possibility of trying to find funding for a second part time paid youth worker (5 hours per week). An application will be made to the Area Board to continue to fund the cost of the premises and one youth worker in 2018/19 and now it is felt that the time seems right to ask Devizes Town Council to consider supporting the Club by funding a second youth worker for the year beginning April 2018. At current rates this second youth worker would cost just under £2,000 per annum.

Attached to this agenda is further information about the work of the Youthy and how it is funded. It is hoped that John Saunders will attend the meeting to provide further information and answer any questions members may have.

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide if it wishes to support this application.

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The Council has made no financial provision for supporting youth workers (see balance for 2017/18)

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

14. REPORT FOR DECISION – 2018/2019 CIVIC CALENDAR

Recommendation

That this committee consider and agree any changes to the draft civic calendar, which is issued alongside this agenda.

Purpose of the Report

To agree the Civic Calendar for the civic year 2018 to 2019 up to and including 16 May 2019.

Background

The draft civic calendar is issued alongside this agenda and members are asked to consider any amendments to be considered at the meeting.

The carol concert has been booked for Wednesday 5 December.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Officers are not aware of any financial or resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental issues arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

If key meetings are not held at appropriate times the council may fail to respond to consultative issues within the prescribed times.

It is imperative that Full Council takes place prior to the calendar year end (2018) to ensure that the precept is reported to the proper authority at the proper time.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

15. EXEMPT REPORT – IN RELATION TO PERSONNEL

16. QUESTION TIME

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chairman for councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
30 JANUARY 2018

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK