



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, 6 January 2015

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 Mrs Bridewell)

Chairman: Councillor East

Councillors: Brewer
Geddes
Nash

Mrs Burton
Giraud-Saunders
Smith

Evans
Hopkins

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Community and Civic Resources Committee Meetings held on 18 November and 2 December 2014, 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. NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT SEPTEMBER 2014

8 MONTHS THEREFORE 67%

INCOME

1. Small amount of Civic Event income. No specific budget provision.
2. Full precept received from Wiltshire Council
3. HLF income grant received 2014. Higher than budgeted.
4. JBC salary recharge – 3rd quarter will be raised in December 2014.
5. Business Christmas tree income achieved below budget. 85 trees sold compared to 100 budgeted.

EXPENDITURE

6. 2014 Twinning costs higher than budget and £600 incurred for transportation of a Sarsen stone to Germany. Devizes & District Twinning Association contributed 50% of the cost of this. Stadt Waiblingen have applied for a grant which is still awaited.
7. Free use by All in One Catering £6K year to date. No budget provision against this cost heading. Grant to WANHS, Devizes Community Hospital and Drews Pond Wood fully expended in July 2014.
8. Festival Free Use fully expended in first quarter of the financial year. Actual £6.9K, budget £6K. Carnival Grant and Carnival Free Use now fully expended. DOCA grant £7.7K expended against a full year budget of £10K.
9. Water rates in respect of Memorial Fountain £189 year to date. No specific budget provision.
10. Hillworth Project costs negated by ongoing HLF grant claims. Activity costs more evident in Summer months.

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11. Earlier expenditure during Summer months regarding Plants, Seeds and Bulbs, watering contract and Trees and Woodland.
12. Christmas Lighting not invoiced until the New Year.
13. Third quarter JBC precept received December 2014.

Large items of capital Spend regarding The Chequers Garden and Albion Place will appear later in the financial Year or placed in Ear Marked Reserves should projects not come to fruition during this financial year.

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

A Schedule of Accounts Paid is attached for information (doc 6/1 – doc 6/2).

7. REPORT FROM INSPECTOR ARMSTRONG OF WILTSHIRE POLICE

Providing there are no operational issues Inspector Armstrong will attend the meeting. Please advise in advance if there are any questions which require answering.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - DEVIZES LEISURE CENTRE

The Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee recently met in November to review the centres performance and better understand the issues preoccupying the manager.

Circulated alongside this agenda doc 8/1 to 8/3 is a copy of the Centre Managers report in which he highlights current areas of work and activates.

One area of greater of concern for the management committee is the lack if accurate and transparent management data. The way in which financial information for the County wide services is apportioned to individual Leisure Centres is unclear and regrettably the officers who manages the service at a county level was available. The other discrepancy is the usage data, which is constantly out of date. The computer system operated by the centre to track users is heavily reliant on groups priding the information which then has to be manually input.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - CCTV UPDATE

Recently the Cllr Peter Evans and the deputy Town Clerk attended a meeting of the Devizes Development partnership as members of the managing board.

The main area of discussion was the operation of the CCTV system and issues around the aged of some of the equipment. Attached is a copy of the financial information produced for at the meeting (doc 9/1 to 9/2).

The main area of discussion is the development of a programme to replace ageing equipment.

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It was agreed by the board that the £4000 of surplus money should be used as matched funding to secure additional money which will enable two of the oldest cameras to be replaced. In the further, funding will need to be sought in the form of sponsorship to continue the programme.

The £4000 will be from the current account balance held on deposit, which following the work will be down to approximately £1500.

Once a more detailed programme of work is available, it will be shared with the committee.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – GULLS IN DEVIZES

Councillor Carter recently attended a meeting organised by Wiltshire Council to discuss solution to tackle the problem of gulls on the east side of Devizes. Below are the notes he took at that meeting.

Gulls Meeting – 27th Nov 2014

Present:

John Carter – Head of Public Protection

Richard Rogers – Community Area Manager, Devizes

Laura Mayes – Local Member for Roundway

Claire Francis – Public Protection Manager

Isabelle Tucker – Public Health Nurse

Nigel Carter – Devizes Town Council

Chris Callow – Roundway Parish Council

Background

- The number of gulls within the Devizes area have been increasing over the past few years and this is likely to increase at a high rate in the future unless action is taken.
- The key location for the gulls is in the Canal Road Industrial Estate, which is located directly next to residential properties. During the period of March to September the gulls nesting in the area cause an enormous amount of distress by their continuous and loud noise during the night. There is also an issue with the area being covered with gull excrement.
- Cllr Mayes has received numerous requests for some action to be taken to address this situation. Whilst it is not a statutory responsibility of Wiltshire Council to do anything, it is a community issue that does have a public health element to it.
- A petition of over 300 signatures was presented to Devizes Area Board and they agreed that a working group should be set up and a proposal taken back to the meeting on January 24th 2015
- One of the key problems is that gulls are protected.

Examples from other areas in the UK

- **Bath** – A multi faceted approach has been taken including gull proof bin bags, education, false eggs etc
- **Severn Gull Liaison Group** – Wiltshire Council has now joined this group
- **Bristol City Council** – Egg replacement service
- **Cheltenham** – Egg oiling
- **Plymouth** – Piloting for a year using Birds of Prey

Options considered and rejected

- **Egg oiling** – This is now outdated and evidence suggests that it does not really work. It has been largely displaced by egg replacement
- **Targeting food source** – There does not seem to be one food source and bins are gull proof

Proposal

- The favoured approach is to primarily use egg replacement to reduce the numbers. This will however take a year or two before the affect on numbers is realized.
- It was agreed that for the first year (2015), hawk flying would look to be used alongside egg replacement. This would allow numbers to be controlled from day 1
- The approach needs to be a community one. Where possible it should involve businesses, residents and other parties where appropriate

Actions

1. Put together costings for both the egg replacement scheme and Hawk flying along with any certificates or permissions required (15th December 2014) – Public Protection Team
2. Put the above together into a community proposal (end December) – RR
3. Apply for any licences or permissions required (Public Protection)
4. Take to area board meeting to report back (Jan 24th) - LM
5. Approach stakeholders for buy in and financial contributions. This could be financial such as ‘sponsor an egg replacement’ or in kind such as ‘Fire and rescue helping with replacement process’ (During Jan 015) - All
6. Approach Area Board, Town Council and Parish Councils for funding (During Jan 15) – LM, NC, CC
7. Publicise plan (Feb onwards) - RR
8. Put plan in place (Mid Feb onwards) - All

11. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - CONSULTATION EXERCISE – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - RESULTS

A consultation day was conducted by Devizes Town Council staff at The Mayors Carol Concert on 10 December 2014. Members of the community were invited to complete questionnaires and to express their views regarding the Christmas Lights and the Switch on ceremony.

78 questionnaires were completed with the following feedback being received.

87% of respondents thought the Christmas Lights were good or very good with the remaining 13% feeling the lights to be poor.

In comparison to 2013, 88% of residents thought the lights to be good or very good and 12% felt the lights to be poor.

97% of respondents thought the Christmas Lights switch on and lantern parade to be good or very good with the remaining 3% feeling the event to be poor.

43 of the respondents would like to see improvements, areas of suggested improvement included a better Father Christmas and better lights and a better tree in the Market Place. As many people wished to see coloured lights as wished to see white lights. There were as many positive comments as negative.

Respondents asked for to lights on the Green, in Moyne Close, Long Street, London Road, Sidmouth Street, New Park Street and Southbroom Road.

The next consultation exercise will be on the subject of the allotment site in Windsor Drive and will go out at the same time as the request for allotment rental payments.

12. 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.

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

TOWN CLERK