

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

15th February 2022

Present: Chairman: Councillor East
Mayor: Councillor Gay

Councillors: Bridewell Corbett Hopkins
 Hoult Hunter Oliver

Officers: Simon Fisher, Town Clerk
 Jan Rendle, Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Five

473. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on the 4th January and 1st February 2022, having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

474. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Burton, Geddes, Nash and Mrs Rose.

475. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Bridewell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 485, as a collector for the Royal British Legion.

476. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were five members of the public, including Loz Samuels of DOCA and Geoff Baker of the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald.

477. FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

The report was received and noted.

478. FOR INFORMATION - NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2021/22

The report was noted, with officers being asked to confirm the figures for the Park Café.

479. FOR INFORMATION – PRESENTATION BY DOCA

Loz Samuels gave a presentation to members, summarising the past year's events and their success despite the uncertainties caused by lockdowns. It was confirmed that DOCA had been awarded a grant from the Arts Council for the artistic elements of the coming year's programme, and the Committee was interested to learn of DOCA's forthcoming plans. The Chairman thanked Loz for her presentation, and expressed members' appreciation for DOCA's achievements over the past two difficult years.

480. FOR INFORMATION – REPORTS FROM UNITARY MEMBERS

It was noted that, although informative, much of the report information was already available on the Wiltshire Council website, and it would be more useful to learn of the work and initiatives with which Devizes' Unitary councillors were involved and how they impact Devizes in particular.

Members queried whether Wiltshire Council could have used more efficient and cost-effective means of notifying residents of the forthcoming change in rubbish collection days, rather than sending out separate letters and leaflets, as well as bin tags.

481. FOR INFORMATION – GULL POPULATION MANAGEMENT

The report was received and noted.

482. FOR DECISION – COUNCILLOR SURGERIES AND ROADSHOWS

This item had been introduced by Councillor Gay, not as originally stated in the agenda.

There was a discussion acknowledging the value of holding face-to-face meetings, both in a surgery format and as a roadshow, to demonstrate the Town Council's unified approach to issues; the matter of personal safety was raised and members were advised not to attend such events alone. Recent informal meetings in the Market Place appeared quite successful.

It was proposed by Councillor Gay, seconded by Councillor Hopkins and
AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Councillor surgeries and roadshows would be reintroduced from April, with polls via the Town Council website and the Messenger to establish residents' preferences for such meetings.

483. FOR DECISION – FINANCE WORKING PARTY TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Hunter and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee agrees the terms of reference as set out in the agenda for the Finance working party.

484. FOR DECISION – USE OF TOWN HALL BY DEVIZES EISTEDDFOD

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor East and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee grants free use of the Town Hall for the Devizes Eisteddfod in November.

485. FOR DECISION – COMMUNITY GRANT, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It was proposed by Councillor Bridewell, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee agrees a general grant of £300 to the Royal British Legion to support the Devizes Branch's 100th Anniversary event.

486. FOR DECISION – ROAD SWEEPER PROCUREMENT

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Bridewell and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee authorises the acquisition of a road sweeper, being mindful of the carbon output against cost, but final costings with information to be reviewed by Finance working party prior to purchase.

487. FOR DECISION – MEETING MICROPHONE SYSTEM

There was some reluctance to spend such a large sum of money but members recognised the importance of having a quality system that would permit effective live-streaming of meetings in the future. After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor East, seconded by Councillor Corbett and AGREED

THAT the Committee authorises the purchase of the Bosch conference system, but final costings, full specification and guarantee details are to be forwarded to the Finance working party for scrutiny prior to purchase.

488. FOR DECISION – DOG FOULING TASKFORCE

Members were reluctant to form another Council working party and acknowledged that for some dog owners, enforcement would be the only solution to this anti-social behaviour.

It was proposed by Councillor Gay, seconded by Councillor Hunter and AGREED

THAT officers would investigate the following action plan and report back to the Committee:

- monitor the use of Council bins for dog waste to optimise the location of any new bins required;
- cost out the purchase of bag dispensers and bags for approx. 30% of bins and dog fouling hot spots;
- cost out a corresponding timely bin emptying regime;
- establish the cost of a public information scheme, to include permanent signage;
- develop a positive Council-led social media campaign across DTC platforms;
- establish a public awareness campaign via the Messenger.

489. FOR DECISION – GENERAL GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Corbett and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee agrees the reviewed policy for providing general Town Council grants.

490. FOR DECISION – TOWN COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Gay and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Members would update their local noticeboards with Town Council contact information, a list of Councillors and a copy of the Civic Calendar, to be provided by officers.

491. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN